

THE BLACK LENSTM

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

GUILTY! JUSTICE FOR CAIDEN

By Sandra Williams

The jury in the murder trial of Joshua Mobley began deliberating at 9am on Wednesday morning, June 26. Two hours later they were back with their verdict. Joshua Mobley was found guilty of Second Degree Murder in the February 2017 death of ten-month old Caiden Henry. In addition, the jury also returned a special verdict, answering yes to all three special circumstances, that Mobley knew or should have known that Caiden was particularly vulnerable or incapable of resistance, that Mobley used his position of trust or confidence to facilitate the commission of the crime, and that the crime involved a destructive and foreseeable impact on persons other than the victim. The special verdict means that Mobley could face up to life in prison.

The two week long trial pitted two opposing versions against each other as to what happened to baby Caiden on February 26, 2017. Both the prosecution, led by Deputy Spokane County Prosecutors Stefanie Collins and Shane Smith, and defense attorney Carl Oreskovich agreed that Caiden was in the care of Mobley for ten hours on February 26, while his mother, Crystal Henry, and Mobley's wife were working.

Both the defense and prosecution produced witnesses that testified to Caiden's injuries (an autopsy revealed bruising, internal bleeding and brain hemorrhaging) and both sides agreed that Caiden's death was the result of blunt force trauma. How Caiden received the injuries



that led to his death, however, made up the substance of the trial, with the prosecution arguing that Joshua Mobley, father of three children at the time (now four), who had been babysitting Caiden as a result of an agreement between his wife and Crystal Henry, was responsible.

According to testimony, Crystal Henry left Caiden in the care of Mobley at 10am on Sunday, February 26 to go to work. She told police that she received a tex-

ted photo of a "sleeping" Caiden from Mobley around 5:30pm, telling her that Caiden had "played until he couldn't." Sending Crystal a text of her son was something Mobley had never done before.

The prosecution also pointed out other behaviors from Mobley on that day that they considered unusual. That Mobley drove his family over to his parent's house after his wife got off of work and placed the "sleeping" Caiden in an upstairs bedroom alone and away from his own children and everyone else. That he placed the "sleeping" Caiden in a rear facing car seat in the third row of his SUV when he picked Crystal up later that night and asked Crystal to sit in the front passenger seat, two rows away from her child. That he carried a "sleeping" Caiden into Crystal's house when he dropped her off and told her not to bother the baby because he was "sleeping heavy".

According to Henry, Caiden cried when he was left alone. Cried when he was hungry. Cried a lot when he was put into a car seat. But, the prosecution argued, nobody heard Caiden cry again after he spent that day with Mobley.

The prosecution also pointed out that Caiden had been injured four times while in the care of Joshua Mobley, arguing that it was a pattern.

The defense, on the other hand, argued that Mobley's "unusual" actions on February 26 were innocent. That he sent the photo to Henry because it was a cute picture.

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Unitarian Church Donates \$40,000 to Carl Maxey Center

The 2019 Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly (GA) was held in Spokane, WA, from June 19-23. The GA is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and thousands of attendees gather each year to worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association.

This year's General Assembly brought close to 3,000 Unitarian Universalists to the Spokane Convention Center for a four-day conference that included morning worship services, workshops, lectures, panels and participation in a Public Witness march and rally alongside local Spokane activists to protest efforts to build a new county jail.

The theme for this year's GA was "The Power of We." Attendees were asked, "in a time of great challenge and heartbreak in our world, what does our faith demand from us?" Speakers included Richard Blanco, who delivered the inaugural poem at President Obama's 2013 inauguration and Robin DiAngelo, author of the best-selling book, "White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism."

Opening night included a parade of banners from the various UU congregations in attendance, and an open-



Kecia McMillian, UU Fellowship, Newark, DE

ing celebration and service, followed by the award winning duo Emma's Revolution in concert.

GA workshop topics included faith development, stewardship, theology, social justice, climate justice, and dismantling white supremacy, amongst many others,

with a number of workshops focusing on the LGBTQ+ population, youth and young adults, and both indigenous and international communities.

Local minister Rev. Percy Happy Watkins, Pastor Emeritus of New Hope Baptist Church, delivered the sermon for the Friday morning service, introduced by his good friend Rev. Dr. Todd Ekloff of the Spokane UUC.

Closing out the General Assembly, The Rev. Marta I. Valentin, minister of the UU Church of Medford, Massachusetts, delivered the sermon for the Sunday morning service, the largest annual gathering of UUs joining in worship. She told attendees, "Your power is waiting on you to pick it up with love and expectancy and get to work. Let's be co-liberators together."

As a part of their General Assembly each year, the Unitarian Universalist Association selects a Service Project in each community where the GA is held. UU members put their love into practical action by offering a donation to support the important work of local organizations. Spokane's Carl Maxey Center was selected as the 2019 UUA Service Project.

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ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

by Sandra Williams

Racism is a Virus

A few weeks ago my mom and I watched a mini-series on the National Geographic Network called, *The Hot Zone*. Based on the 1994 best selling book by Richard Preston, the six episode series tells the story of a 1989 incident in which a close relative of the deadly Ebola virus (later named the Reston Virus) was discovered at a primate quarantine facility in Reston, Virginia, close to Washington, D.C. The series, which is based on a true story, documents the efforts of the U.S. Army and Centers for Disease Control to identify, isolate and prevent the spread of the virus into a major American city, which they fortunately were able to do.

I learned a good deal from the movie, like what a filovirus is, a term I had never heard before. Filoviruses, like Ebola and others, are "Biosafety Level 4 agents". That means they are extremely dangerous and potentially deadly to humans. They are highly infectious, have a very high fatality rate, in some cases as high as 80-90%, and there are no known treatments or cures. Pretty scary stuff.

I also learned about viruses in general and how they work. A virus needs a host cell in order to survive. The virus gets inside of that host cell and takes it over, ultimately causing the host cell to begin making copies of the virus instead, which is how it spreads.

But more important than that is how viruses, in order to survive, have the ability to adapt, mutate and evolve over time. In fact, the high mutation rates and fast evolution of some viruses, and their ability to potentially mutate from one host to the next, or even one species to the next, is one of the things that makes viruses so scary. Scientists are still trying to figure out how they do it, and, for our own good, trying to keep up.

Needless to say, the movie stuck in my head for a long time after I watched it, and what I learned from it showed up in an interesting place.

In the week that followed the movie, I was scheduled to deliver a talk about equity and racism. It's something that I talk about a lot, (that and racial disparities) and after many many years of doing it, I am pretty comfortable discussing the subject matter. So, I was doing my usual



review of the material the night before. This time, though, the *Hot Zone* was in my head. And images of viruses and filoviruses were still swirling around in my brain.

I have been pretty frustrated and cranky of late when talking about equity and racism. If you know me, you know this. I have felt at times like a rat on a wheel, spinning and spinning and spinning, having the same conversations, about the same topics and the same issues, only with new people, in different meetings, at different offices. But nothing seems to change. Ever.

In fact, in many ways, the racism and inequity seem to be more entrenched now than ever, and much harder to root out.

I was thinking about that, and that's when it hit me (like a two by four up against my head). Racism is like a virus. White supremacy is like a virus. A mutating, evolving, adapting virus. And that's why we can't get rid of it.

This country was infected by the virus of racism/white supremacy at its inception. One of its strains, or one of the ways it manifested, was in the form of slavery. But when slavery was eventually outlawed, the virus mutated into segregation and Jim Crow laws. When segregation and Jim Crow laws became illegal, the virus mutated into systemic and structural racism (redlining, racial covenants, gerrymandering, mass incarceration, discrimination in employment and wages, disparities in school suspension and expulsion, etc., etc., etc.)

And now that systemic and structural racism are being called out, successfully attacked and incrementally dismantled, the virus of racism/white supremacy is mutating again. This time into colorblindness.

With each mutation, a virus gets smarter, stronger and more adept at how to survive. And, unfortunately, like the scientists fighting against Ebola and other deadly viruses, we are trying to keep up.

THE BLACK LENS NEWS

The Black Lens is a community newspaper, based in Spokane, WA, that it is focused on the news, events, issues, people and information important to Spokane's African American/Black Community and beyond. The paper is published on the first of each month.

Contact Information:

Square Peg Multimedia, 1312 N. Monroe St, #148, Spokane, WA 99201 (509) 795-1964, sandy@blacklensnews.com

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Join the Black Lens for our Summer Movie Screening and Discussion

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Magic Lantern Theatre
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Fighting to Make Spokane a Safer Place for All

Councilmember Beggs believes that we can make our community safer for all by:

- Increasing civilian oversight of our police and decreasing racial bias.
- Creating programs of community supervision and treatment for people in the justice system.
- Tackling the root causes of crime in our community by investing in people.
- Directing current funds towards reforms in our criminal justice system, not a new jail.

Breean Beggs is focused on working with the community to address issues that matter in our day-to-day lives.

- Rebuilding our Streets
- Reducing Crime
- More Affordable Housing Choices



“Councilmember Beggs brims with optimism about Spokane, and has done so much to infuse that hope into many of our policies and initiatives. I strongly believe in his values, and trust his judgment in leading our City Council.”

- FRANCIS ADEWALE

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BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Eastern Washington University's Angela Jones Named to Leadership Institute

Source: American Association of State Colleges and Universities, aascu.org

Angela Jones, Vice President of Student Affairs at Eastern Washington University (EWU), was one of 29 senior-level higher education professionals nationwide selected by The American Association of State Colleges and Universities for its 2019 Millennium Leadership Initiative (MLI).

MLI, one of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' (AASCU) premier leadership development programs, provides individuals traditionally underrepresented in the highest ranks of postsecondary education with the opportunity to develop skills, gain a philosophical overview, and build the network needed to advance to the presidency. The program celebrated its 20th anniversary last year and has produced 570 graduates, of which 104 have become first-time presidents or chancellors and more than one-third have advanced significantly in their careers.

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) is a Washington, D.C.-based higher education association of nearly 400 public colleges, universities, and systems whose members share a learning- and teaching-centered culture, a historic commitment to underserved student populations, and a dedication to research and creativity that advances their regions' economic progress and cultural development.



The participants, also referred to as protégés, will begin MLI by attending the MLI Institute, a four-day, intensive conference held in Washington, D.C. This is followed by a yearlong mentorship with an experienced president and access to coaches who can provide guidance once the mentorship has ended.

"I never forgot the profound impact MLI had in shaping my career, and I am honored to welcome the next MLI Class as they begin their journey to gain invaluable knowledge and connections from this exceptional program," said AASCU President Dr. Mildred García, a protégé in MLI's inaugural class in 1999.

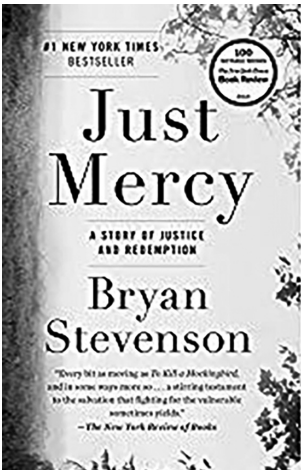
"True Justice" Documentary About Bryan Stevenson, Founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, Premieres on HBO

Source: goodblacknews.org

On June 26, HBO premiered "True Justice: Bryan Stevenson's Fight for Equality," a documentary about Alabama public interest attorney Bryan Stevenson, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, and best-selling author of *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*.

Told primarily in his own words, True Justice shares Stevenson's experience with a criminal justice system that, he says, "treats you better if you're rich and guilty than if you're poor and innocent."

According to HBO.com, the film covers Stevenson's work in Alabama, birthplace of the civil rights movement and home to the Equal Justice Initiative, as well as the



early influences that drove him to become an advocate for the poor and the incarcerated. The documentary explores the criminal justice system



through candid interviews with associates, close family members and clients and chronicles Stevenson's struggle to create greater fairness in the system, showing how racial injustice emerged, evolved and continues to threaten the country, challenging viewers to confront it.

The film also documents the monumental opening, on April 26, 2018, of the Equal Justice Initiative's Legacy Museum and its National Memorial for Peace and Justice, the country's only lynching memorial, which is dedicated to the more than 4,400 African American victims of lynching.

True Justice: Bryan Stevenson's Fight for Equality is a co-production of HBO and Kunhardt Films; produced and directed by Peter Kunhardt, George Kunhardt and Teddy Kunhardt; executive produced by Trey Ellis and Peter Kunhardt; edited and produced by Maya Mumma, ACE. For HBO: executive produced by Jacqueline Glover, Nancy Abraham and Lisa Heller.

Sacramento Park Renamed After LeVar Burton



(Source: Paul Kitagaki Jr., Sacramento Bee, sacbee.com)

On June 11 Sacramento's Richfield Park was renamed after the former Reading Rainbow host, LeVar Burton, according to The Sacramento Bee.

Burton was born in Germany and moved to California when he was 3 years old, Sacramento Bee reports. He attended Christian Brothers High School and went on to attend the University of Southern California.

In addition to hosting and Executive Producing the award winning children's series, Reading Rainbow, in the 90s, Burton is also known for his roles in Star Trek: The Next Generation and as Kunta Kente in the groundbreaking television miniseries Roots.

Burton returned to his hometown for the official dedication of LeVar Burton Park which is in the Meadowview neighborhood where he was raised. The Sacramento Bee reported that he spoke to a crowd of a few hundred people, while accepting the dedication and expressing his gratitude to family members, some of whom were present.

"Everything I have done in the field of literacy has been in honor of my mother, Irma Jean Christian," Burton is quoted as saying. The former English teacher and social worker, Burton says, was "deeply committed to her children achieving their full potential, knowing education was the key."

Academic Study Finds That Companies Target African American Youth With Ads for Unhealthy Foods

Source: Journal of Blacks in Higher Education, jbhe.com)

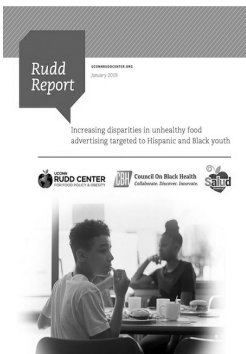
A new report led by scholars at the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at the University of Connecticut, documents that major food companies almost exclusively market unhealthy foods such as fast food, candy, sugary drinks and salty snacks to Black youths.

Jennifer Harris, the lead author of the report and director of marketing initiatives at the University of Connecticut's Rudd Center, notes that "food companies have introduced healthier products and established corporate responsibility programs to support health and wellness among their customers, but this study shows that they continue to spend 8 of 10 television advertising dollars on fast food, candy, sugary drinks, and unhealthy snacks, with even more advertising for these products targeted to Black youth."

The study found that in 2017 food companies spent almost \$11 billion on television advertising. Only \$195 million of this spending was on healthy foods. The report states that \$1.1 billion of the television food advertising was spent on programs targeting Black or Hispanic audiences. The data showed that 86 percent of the advertisements on programs targeting Blacks were for unhealthy foods.

Furthermore the study found that unhealthy food advertising targeting Black audiences increased by more than 50 percent between 2013 and 2017. Overall television food advertising declined by 4 percent during the period. The analysis found that Black teenagers saw more than twice as many ads for unhealthy foods than White teenagers.

The full report, *"Increasing Disparities in Unhealthy Food Advertising Targeted to Hispanic and Black Youth"*, may be downloaded by visiting the following link: <http://uconnruddcenter.org/files/Pdfs/TargetedMarketingReport2019.pdf>



Netflix to Launch All Girl Superhero Animation Series from Africa



Source: Aisha Salaudeen, CNN African Voices, edition.cnn.com/2019; Graphic: Cameroonian artist, Malcolm Wope)

(CNN)As part of its growing acquisition of content from Africa, Netflix has announced its first original African animated series - *Mama K's Team 4*. The series is produced by award-winning South Africa based studio, Triggerfish Animation, and London based kids and family entertainment specialist, CAKE.

Mama K's Team 4 tells the story of four teenage girls living in a futuristic version of Lusaka, Zambia's capital city. The girls are recruited by an ex-secret agent to save the world. Designed by Cameroonian artist Malcolm Wope, the animation drew inspiration for the visuals from retro 90s hip hop girl groups, Netflix said in a statement announcing the deal. The series was written by Zambian writer, Malenga Mulendema who was one of the eight winners of the 2015 Triggerfish Story Lab initiative, a talent hunt for African storytellers.

Mulendema says she grew up watching cartoons and wondered why none of the heroes looked like her. "In creating a superhero show set in Lusaka, I hope to introduce the world to four strong African girls who save the day in their own fun and crazy way. Most importantly, I want to illustrate that anyone from anywhere can be a superhero," she said in the Netflix statement.

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Oregon Bill Would Crack Down on Racially Motivated 911 Calls

(Source: oregonlive.com/politics; Photo Credit: Facebook)

SALEM (AP) — Oregon moved to crack down on racially motivated 911 calls in June, responding to a series of publicized incidents across the country where predominantly white civilians called the police on Black people going about everyday activities like napping or barbecuing.

Victims of those police calls would be able to sue the caller for up to \$250, under a measure overwhelmingly approved by state Senate on June 3. It passed the state House in April.

The measure is a joint effort by three Black Oregon lawmakers, which according to Rep. Janelle Bynum is meant to “shine a spotlight on an issue African Americans have known for far too long,”

“When someone gets the police called on them for just existing in public, it sends a message that you don’t belong here,” said Bynum.

Bynum proposed the legislation after a woman called 911 on her when she was canvassing door-to-door last year for her re-election campaign. The woman



said Bynum looked “suspicious.” The summoning of police on a lawmaker “campaigning while Black” drew national attention.

Although she was able to get an apology from the woman, Bynum said she realized that most people have no way to hold these callers accountable. She said, “this creates a legal pathway to justice for those of us who have to worry about getting the

cops called on us for existing in public.” According to Oregon Live, House Bill 3216 does not include the possibility of criminal charges, but instead creates a path for people to file a suit in small claims court for damages of up to \$250.

The idea is that someone who calls the police as a way to harass someone who is minding their own business could then be charged themselves with violating the

victim’s constitutional rights. Victims must be able to prove the caller summoned police to purposefully discriminate or damage a person’s reputation.

Sen. Alan Olsen, a Republican and one of the few critics of the bill, was the lone vote against it in the Senate. He said it could discourage people from reporting crime, thereby making “less safe.”

Sen. Lew Frederick, one of the measure’s co-sponsors, disagreed, saying people can still call the police if they suspect a person is committing a genuine crime.

The proposal is about making Oregon “a more equitable community,” Frederick added. “It’s not just an inconvenience when a police officer stops me,” he said. “When a police officer stops me, I wonder whether I’m going to live for the rest of the day.” Unnecessarily dispatching the police only heightens tensions between police and the Black community, Frederick said.

Although the measure was approved by the House, the chamber still needs to sign off on a technical change before it heads to the governor. -- *The Associated Press*

Supreme Court Agrees To Hear Comcast Appeal In Byron Allen's \$20 Billion Racial Bias Lawsuit



(Source: Eriq Gardner, hollywoodreporter.com; Dana Sanchez, moguldom.com; Photo Credit: Entertainment Studios)

In June, the justices of the U.S. Supreme Court announced that they had accepted for review a case against Comcast, the largest cable TV company in the U.S.

Comcast appealed the \$20 billion lawsuit from Byron Allen's Entertainment Studios Network which claimed discrimination in contracting, saying that Comcast racially discriminated against Allen's Entertainment Studios Network when it refused to license Allen's TV channels.

Allen's lawsuit alleges violation of section 1981 the 1886 Civil Rights Act, which forbids racial discrimination in business contracts. Allen sued Comcast and Charter Communications in a separate case. The cable companies petitioned for review after Allen's company survived a motion to dismiss at the District Court and then scrutiny at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

According to USA Today, Comcast and Charter serve tens of millions of customers in more than 40 states, but Allen claims that since 2008, the two companies have refused to distribute his stations while launching scores of mostly white-owned networks. But Reuters reported the cable operators said their business decisions were based on “capacity constraints, not race.” However, USA Today reported, in one example of alleged racism, the lawsuit against Comcast claims that a company executive said, “We’re not trying to create any more Bob Johnsons” — a reference to Robert L. Johnson, the founder of BET.

27-Year-Old Becomes First Black Woman To Earn Ph.D. In Nuclear Engineering from Country's Top Program



(Source: Philip Lewis, Huffpost.com; Photo Credit: Twitter)

Twenty-seven year old Ciara Sivels has become the first Black woman to earn a doctorate in nuclear engineering from the University of Michigan, the top program in the country. She successfully presented her thesis in October on the “Development of an Advanced Radioxenon Detector for Nuclear Explosion Monitoring.”

In an interview with Huffington Post, Sivels said she was initially interested in studying culinary arts after she graduated from high school, but took an AP chemistry class her junior year and her teacher encouraged her to pursue a career in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math). She developed and interest in nuclear science and engineering.

The program was a challenging one and Sivels said there were times that she considered leaving the school, but she gives credit to her mentors, like Dr. Pozzie. She also founded “Women in Nuclear Engineering in Radiological Science” on her campus, to help connect women.

“My two big things are representation and exposure,” Sivel’s shared. “I feel like my path could have been a lot easier if I would’ve been exposed to things at a different time. I still feel like exposure is key, and representation also helps because you have people that look like you that can help pull you up when you’re failing.”

Sivels is headed to Baltimore to work at Johns Hopkins University’s applied physics lab. She ultimately wants to pursue a career in academia. “That was my goal, going into this program. I want to be a professor,” she said.

Richard Brown III and Anthony G. Stepney First African Americans to Earn PGA Master Designation



(Source: Africanamericangolfersdigest.com)

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — The PGA of America has announced that **Richard Brown III**, PGA Director of Instruction at Quail Valley Golf Course in Missouri City, Texas and **Anthony G. Stepney**, Executive Director of APEX Development Partners in Orlando, Florida, are the first two African Americans to earn PGA Master Professional status, the highest educational designation that can be obtained by a PGA Member.

Brown III, a 14-year PGA Member; and Stepney, a 12-year PGA Member, joined an esteemed group of just 428 PGA Professionals in the history of the PGA of America to have earned PGA Master Professional status. Currently, just one percent of the nearly 29,000 PGA Professionals have achieved the PGA Master Professional designation. Brown III is the first-ever African-American to achieve PGA Master Professional status, with a focus in Teaching & Coaching, while Stepney is the first African-American to achieve PGA Master Professional status in Player Development.

The PGA Master Professional Program (MPP 2.0) is available to any of the PGA of America’s PGA Professionals who have achieved advanced certification through the PGA Certified Professional Program, which was launched in 2004. The PGA Master Professional Program (MPP 2.0) was established in 1969, to recognize PGA Members who have made a significant effort to improve as golf professionals and maintain the highest degree of excellence for themselves and their operations.

YOU SHOULD KNOW

(Or Things You Probably Didn't Learn In School)

ART AND HISTORY by Bertoni Jones Bey

The Geography of the Moors

Part 2

Much of what we know of mankind's geographical history and migration has been filtered through a New World, Westernized mindset, but ancient geography was also defined by alternative definitions and boundaries. Early land claim examples can be found in both the Old Testament and in Ancient Egyptian texts. The accompanying map, theorized by Dr. Alfred Lothar Wegener, shows what the earth looked like before the great earthquake that is said to have caused the Atlantic Ocean and the Continental Drift.

Dr. Wegner, a German meteorologist and geophysicist, noticed that the coastlines of Africa and South America aligned perfectly together. In 1912, he proposed a theory that the continents had once been joined, and over time had drifted apart. Wegner's term for the movement of the continents was "die Verschiebung der Kontinente" or "continental displacement", which eventually became known as the Continental Drift Theory.

The existence of this pre-Continental Drift landmass, which Wegner called Pangea, would have made it possible for those in Africa (the Moors) to migrate and colonize lands outside of what is now the African Continent. The possibility that there is an alternate view of when Africans (Moors) arrived in the Americas and that their presence existed and impacted ancient America long before the onset of slavery is a topic of much debate.

Leo Wiener, an American linguist and historian, in his 1920 book, "Africa and the Discovery of America", and

Barry Fell in his 1989 book, "America B.C. (Ancient Settlers in the New World)" both argued for early African (Moorish) presence in ancient America. Although both have been criticized by their peers.

Additionally, Dr. Ivan van Sertima, a linguist and anthropologist, who was educated at London University and was a professor of African studies at Rutgers, used anthropology, art history, oceanography, cartography, botany and serology as the basis for his 1976 book, "They Came Before Columbus", to identify cultural similarities between

Africa and the ancient Americas, and to assert that ancient Africans (Moors) arrived in the New World more than 22 centuries before Columbus.

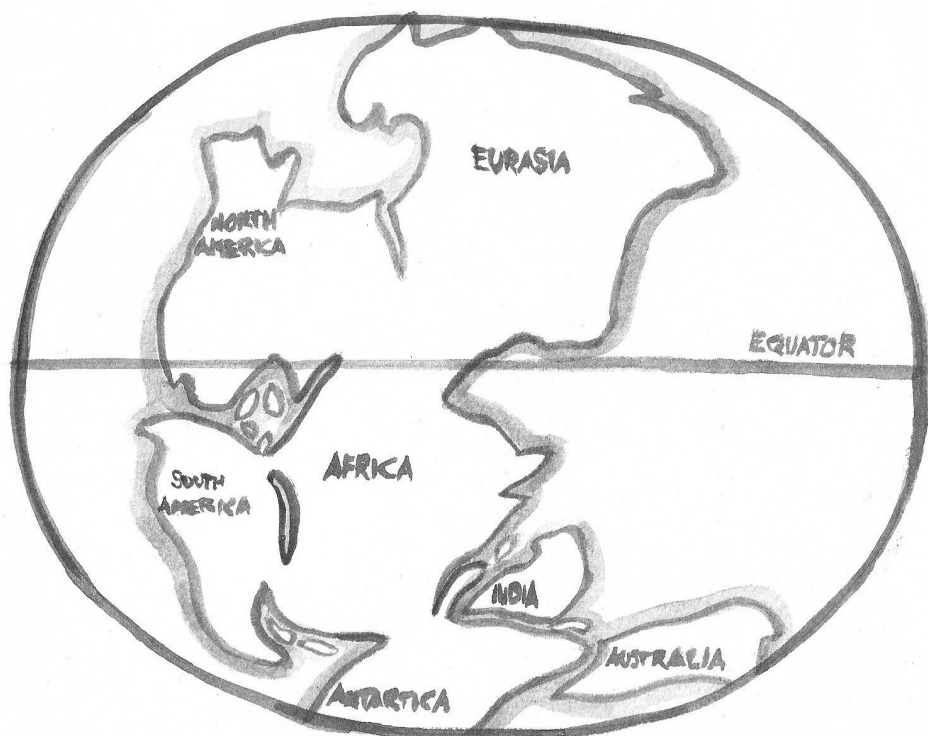
While Van Sertima has been both criticized and praised for his work, his book is presently in its twenty-ninth printing and in 1981 it was awarded the Clarence L. Holte Prize, "for a work of excellence in literature and the humanities relating to the cultural heritage of Africa and the African diaspora."

In addressing the significance of his work, Van Sertima, who died in 2015,

said, "Many people feel a certain kind of happiness when they read my book. A certain kind of shadow lifts. The psyche of Blacks is raised. No man who believes his history began with slavery can be a healthy man. If you lift that shadow, you help repair that damage."

Sources:

America B.C. (Ancient Settlers in the New World) – Barry Fell; *They Came Before Columbus* – Dr. Ivan van Sertima; *Africa and the Discovery of America* – Leo Wiener; *britannica.com*; *Scientus.org/Wegener-Continental-Drift.html*; "Before Columbus: Roots of a Dispute", Hollie I. West, *washingtonpost.com*, 1977.



JONES BEY

Washington State & Montana Federation of Colored Women

Reprinted from BlackPast.org

Founded on Aug. 9, 1917 in Spokane, Washington, the **Washington State Federation of Colored Women (WSFCW)** combined several social and civic clubs organized by African American women during the early 1900s.

The African American women's club movement in Washington State began in 1908 with the founding of the Clover Leaf Art Club in Tacoma by Nettie J. Asberry. The WSFCW brought together city federations and individual clubs from Spokane, Tacoma, and Seattle as well as some in Idaho and Vancouver, B.C.

At its height, the WSFCW comprised over 120 individual clubs with 500 members. The WSFCW affiliated with the National Association of Colored Women, which was founded in 1896 in Washington, D.C. The WSFCW used a theory of self-help activism or "racial uplift," as advocated by Booker T. Washington, to better the social, economic, and political condition of African Americans, both locally and nationally. The organization's motto, "Today is Ours for United Service," reflected the organization's agenda. The WSFCW activities included sponsoring arts and crafts competitions, academic lectures, conducting etiquette classes, providing housing and employment training for homeless women and college scholarships to African American women. The WSFCW also acted as an advocate in political issues, especially education and juvenile delinquency. The WSFCW declined in the 1970s as many African American women were allowed to join newly integrated organizations. However, several African American women's clubs still exist in Tacoma and Seattle.

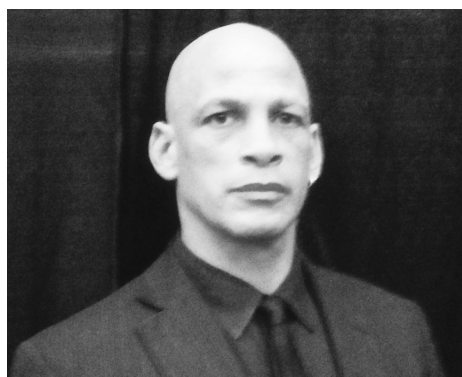


ena, the Clover Leaf Club from Butte, the Anaconda Good Word Literary Club, and the Phyllis Wheatley Club in Billings. Seven of these clubs were represented at the Federation's organizing in August 1921.

Other clubs soon joined, so that during the 1920s and 1930s up to fifteen organizations were members of the Federation. The Federation was one of few state-level organizations representing Montana's Black population, and as such filled a needed role beyond social outlets for its members. By the early 1970s Black communities in Butte and Helena were largely disintegrating, and many of the Black women's clubs had ceased to exist. Consequently the Montana Federation Board voted to disband the Federation in June 1972.

Contributed by: Turkiya Lowe, February 12, 2007 (Washington); Barbara Behan, August 8, 2018 (Montana).

NAACP UPDATE: SPOKANE

<http://www.SpokaneNAACP.com>


By Kurtis Robinson
President, Spokane NAACP Branch #1137

Greetings Spokane family,

Your Spokane NAACP continues to be on the move. Recently we've engaged in everything from the Access to Justice Conference, the wonderful Juneteenth celebrations, the Protest about the Spokane County Jail and the Josh Mobley trial, who was found guilty of second-degree murder in the death of baby Caiden Henry. We are actively engaged with the Justice Task Force, as well as moving forward with Initiative I 940 on internal investigations for Washington state law enforcement.

And not the least of these is the approval and launching of the first Black Prisoners Caucus meetings at Airway Heights Correctional Facility. This historic event is fully approved to start July 21st.

We also had a very powerful and informative meeting in June with co-host Nicole Jenkins-Rosenkrantz, Spokane School staff and board members concerning the Safe Haven Safety Report. If you missed that meeting, it is recorded on our Facebook page and the official report (as promised buy SPS) has been made available



through our listserv. Note; If you aren't getting our listserv, sign up as a Spokane # 1137 member and we will make sure to get you dialed right in.

Truth be told, those are just some of the things we've been involved in and we have not done this alone. It has only been through the titanic efforts of your Spokane NAACP executive committee, branch members and our many community partners that we continue to be at the forefront of these important events and meaningful conversations, calling for restorative concrete action in moving the dial further towards the realizations of equity and justice.

Stay tuned for our upcoming July meeting. We have confirmed the attendance of a panel with Police Chief Craig Meidl, Criminal Justice Administrator Maggie Yates and Interim Jail Superintendent Mike Sparber. This meeting promises to be informative, robust and authentic. This event is scheduled for Monday, July 15th at 7 p.m. but stay tuned to our Facebook page and web page for the exact location.

Now, once again, and not least of all, we have our upcoming Centennial Celebration from September 13th through the 15th, featuring you're NAACP Alaska Oregon Washington State Area Conference at

Northern Quest Casino. For the luncheon we have confirmed our own renowned Sandy Williams as keynote speaker and are working to secure final negotiations for keynote dinner banquet speaker. Look to our web page or the state area conference webpage to secure your tickets for what promises to be another local historic occasion.

On behalf of your Spokane NAACP we thank you for the opportunity to serve and look forward to what we can accomplish as we continue our journey for justice and equity together.

For information: SpokaneNAACP.com

Heads Up (Spokane)

By Kiantha Duncan

Pick the Lock.

Imagine yourself standing on the porch of a house. Inside the house awaits your dearest family, friends and loved ones. The music is playing, you can hear deep sounds of laughter bellowing out from bellies full of home cooking and libations. Everyone is inside and inside is where you desire to be, but alas, no one hears you knocking. You cannot seem to get in.

Imagine pursuing your career goals. You work in your field of passion. You are excelling in your professional competencies. You are growing in your knowledge and abilities but day after day you encounter systems like institutional racism that seem to derail your success. Opportunities elude you. Advancement seems impossible no matter how hard you try.

I once knew a woman who worked tirelessly towards her goals of promotion at a company she had been at for many years. She was dedicated and committed to the corporation she was employed by. She walked and talked the company's values and exemplified strong leadership. Still, opportunity for advancement came around and passed her by 3 times over the course of her tenure. Each time the job was given to individuals less qualified and less experienced than herself. To add insult to injury, she even found herself having to train the individuals that were hired over her. She found herself standing at the door of her career knocking loudly, having earned

awards for breaking records in her industry, still despite her hard work she too couldn't seem to get in.

Maybe there are relationships in your life that are broken and require mending. A lost love, a former friend or a family member whom you may be at odds with but whom you still long for in your heart. Maybe it was a simple misunderstanding, hurt feelings or miscommunications. Whatever the reason for the fall out, your heart still longs for that connection. Although reconciliation is what you desire, reconnecting seems impossible. You've reached out to the person to no avail. Once again, you are standing at the door knocking, trying again to get in.

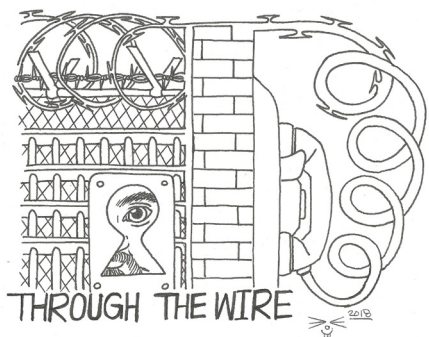
In the case of the woman who was passed over three times for the promotion, I am excited to tell you that when that 3rd person did not work out and the position was again vacant, this time was different. This time there was no denying her as she had worked to overcome or go around all obstacles in her way. Her experience and approach made me realize that we all will face times when we feel we are at a door knocking, wanting to get into some place or space or relationship and in those moments we can choose to accept that no one is going to let us in or we can simply look for alternative ways in and pick the lock.



There are always multiple solutions to any problem or situation. When you have tried to "get in" or solve a problem in the obvious way to no avail, don't give up. Never allow yourself to get frustrated and stop trying. Just because someone is not opening the door you want opened.

Get creative. Within you is the power to get into any space you set your mind to. It may not always be the easy way in but when the rubber hits the road be willing to do whatever is necessary including picking the lock! Let nothing keep you outside of where you desire to be.

Kiantha Duncan is a Principal Development Strategist with The Duncan Brown Group. She can be reached at 206-225-4736.



THE BLACK PRISONERS CAUCUS

Airway Heights

David Hall Earns College Degree in AHCC

Airway Heights Correctional Facility Holds College Graduation

On April 25, David Hall joined three other inmates who received their Associates Degrees during a commencement ceremony at Airway Heights Corrections Facility. I had the opportunity to interview Mr. Hall. These are his thoughts in his own words.

I am a committee member for AHCC's Afro-American Cultural Committee and an interim member of the BPC (Black Prisoners Caucus). I would like to share with you my achievement as one of the first four inmate students to receive a certified, accredited, college AAS-degree in Business. This is AHCC's first time (since the 90s) to allow inmates to earn a college degree. Not only am I one of the first four students to receive this degree at AHCC, but I am the first and only Black student to receive it. We need more Black students in education, and I'm determined to facilitate that at AHCC. I'm also a newly appointed Student Representative for Spokane Community College (SCC) at our prison campus. So, as you can see, I'm all over the place, chasing Greatness.

1.) What does earning a Bachelor's Degree mean to you?

Earning a degree is essential in my endeavor to be rehabilitated and redeemed once I'm released from the penitentiary. My degree certifies my knowledge and understanding in Business. It gives me the credibility to discuss issues with leaders of the Community. I'm honored that this year our local prison, AHCC, finally permitted prisoners to earn college degrees. It is important to disclose that I am one of the first four students (and the only Black, so far) to receive a college degree, an Associates of Applied Science in general Business. Earning a degree in prison has had its challenges.

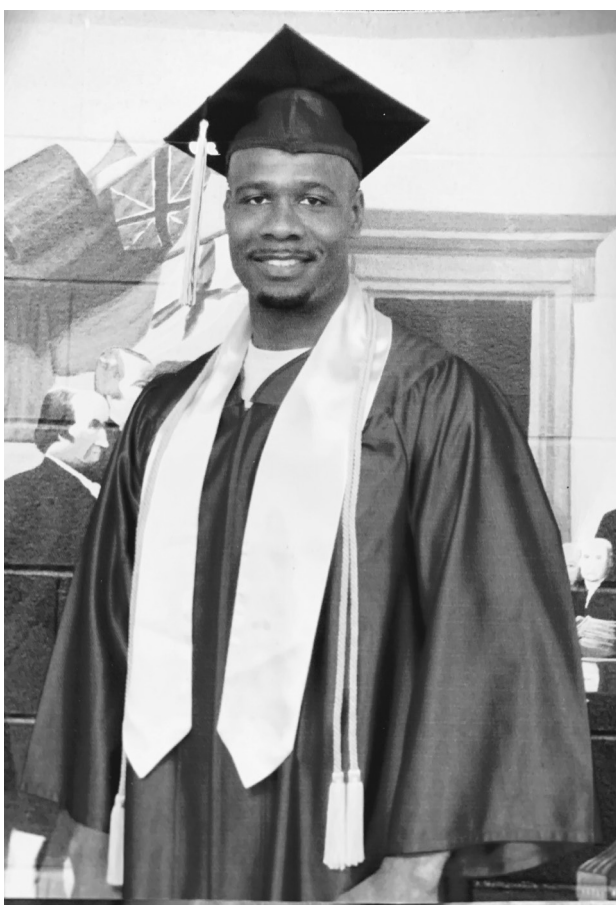
2) Can you explain some of the challenges?

One challenge is students getting back into a school/academic culture after living a street life for so long, like routinely attending class, studying, and recalling previous academic learning. While a student is maintaining positive behaviors in prison, that student doesn't have to look for trouble, trouble can come their way. That is because prison has a volatile environment. An incident like a fight or medical emergency could happen at anytime. Staff must respond to each incident, investigation, and even false alarms. Accordingly, all prisoner movement ceases until staff restores order. These priority responses can cause delay or cancel class for the day (or several days), which could affect a student's learning and their grade when assignments and tests are due.

Another challenge would be dealing with or interacting with other prisoners who are not students and have not reached a certain level of maturity or rehabilitation yet. These individuals may start a confrontation with a student whose trying to change their life, for various reasons. Both the student and the other prisoner will be placed in disciplinary segregation. A student would have to think quick on his feet and be engaged in preventive measures and dialogue to evade conflict.

And finally, another challenge is that the college staff does their best to provide a college setting for students, however, prison rules makes that extremely difficult to accommodate. Because of prison rules, prisoners do not have direct access to the internet. Our school supplies are restricted to limited amounts of paper and pen. Students learn to economize and conserve these resources quickly for the faith of maintaining good grades.

A student will have to be mindful of all these challenges and stay focused in order to maintain and complete their program of learning. However, the beauty of education in prison is that it "sparks" offender change. Being a teacher's aide, I've witnessed several students transitioning as they eradicate their bad habits and negative mindset into developing an appetite for learning. Experts in rehabilitation and criminal justice reform, state that offenders who participate in correctional education programs have a 43% greater chance of NOT returning to prison than offenders who do not participate. Additionally, an offender who



earns a certificate or degree increases his or her chance by 13% over their peers in obtaining employment once they are released. Both correctional staff and students are encouraged to "not discourage that spark" nor fan out that educational flame.

3) Tell me a little about your background.

"I was born in Gary, Indiana (30-miles from Chicago) in 1980, but I grew up in Seattle, WA (Central District) since the early 90s. Because I got incarcerated in 2004 (age 24), I don't have any children and have never been married. My mother was a teen mom, so in my early childhood I lived with my Grandmother (in Gary) while my mother graduated and went to medical school. When I became a teen, I moved to Seattle to be raised by my father and lovely step-mother. Growing up, my family was very close, although both parent's sides were separated. My mother became super-successful in her medical career, but we somehow developed a 15-year "estranged" relationship. My father always taught us to stick together, no matter what.

I attended a few high schools, Rainier Beach H.S. ('96), in particular. During high school, I did get into trouble a lot on minor, mischief issues, but I also managed to play on the football team, track team, and played minor roles in drama classes. After I graduated, I tried to join the Seattle Fire Department, but I did not get selected. My father wanted me to join the U.S. Navy and I did, but months later I dropped out. I lived independently, working odd retail jobs. But, unfortunately, I started living a street life and got involved in criminal activities. Meanwhile, I tried to attend Ashmead College (school of Massaging) but dropped out because I was too caught up hustling the streets.

I didn't know at that time I had developed a major depression. I pretended that nothing was wrong with me but I started drinking and using drugs heavily. Then my bad habits spiraled out of control.

When I came to prison, I first attended church and worked on healing my depression. Then I worked tirelessly on my character to rectify my ignorance and eradicate my bad habits. I've been here at AHCC since 2015. My mother reached out to me. We ended our estrangement and have been going strong for the past four years, with weekly phone conversations. I realize that I have a talent for number crunching and fascinated with watching Shark Tank and analyzing financial reports. So I attended the Business Program here at AHCC, (Spokane Comm. College prison campus). I'm also heavily involved in all Afro-American

cultural activities here in the prison and I'm a well-informed advocate of Criminal Justice Reform and restorative justice principles. I'm something like a Van Jones-mini me. LOL.

4) What were you like as a young man? Did you ever think about your future?

I grew up as a happy kid, free spirited. I'm still that way, now. Living with my father, we struggled hard to make ends meet but I give him the utmost credit in that we never missed a meal. My grandmother sheltered me from every explicit song and R-rated movie (in the 80's), but living with my father, there was no disciplined structure. My father empowered me to think freely and act independently and I took advantage of that. Although I was raised to respect my elders, family, and everyone else of diverse backgrounds, I still managed to get into mischief. Nevertheless, I grew up happy and peaceful. I've always had a lot of friends, elders, and associates who noticed my potential. It is unfortunate, however, that growing up, I never could envision my future. I've always lived in the moment. But now, all I do is plan out my days, weeks, and months. I envision my 1 year and 5 year plans, faithfully.

5) If you could go back to your teenage self, what would your adult self say to him?

I strongly believe when young boys grow to be teen-aged-young men, they need structure and responsibility, which I lacked. I would advise myself to stay focused more often and to learn what it means to be disciplined.

6) What lessons have you learned since you have been incarcerated?

I've learned a few life skills thoroughly, like discipline, patience, and respecting different points of view. I learned discipline fast. I don't have the luxury to eat, shower, or make phone calls whenever I want to. I learned to manage my time and work on priorities that matter. I've learned to have the 'long suffering' kind of patience. Then I finally understood the gravity of the crimes I've committed, and how I could still harm someone even though I never harmed them physically. I also learned how much I've disappointed my family. Then I learned that I could make amends and do better, which I've done just that. Finally, I learned to stay focused on my aspirations.

7) What do you want people to know about you that they may not know?

Like that old song by Drake, I just want to be 'SUCCESSFUL.' Since I came to prison, I've rebuilt my entire being, mentally and physically. I am now emotionally stable and able to manage a peace of mind during hard times, like when I dearly miss my friends and family (their B.Days and holidays, especially). I have little friends and family from Spokane, so I spend my lonely times in gym workouts, studying, and working on cultural projects. Prison has a 'volatile' environment. Any person could have a bad day or medical emergency that would shut down prisoner movement because staff has to respond. It interrupts normal daily operations, like a collision on a freeway. Given that I have earned my degree in such an environment, I have demonstrated my purpose in life, which is to "advance towards Success" and not get out of prison to re-commit crime. My purpose also serves another method as to 'making amends to the victims' I emotionally harmed and caused inconvenience. Bare apologies, could never make up for what I've done, but my purpose will show that I will NEVER commit such irresponsible acts again.

I am a devoted pupil in the academics of Business, from accounting to management to economics, etc. I am so competent and compassionate about Business, that I became a Teacher's Aide in our Business Occupations program a few months before completing those related courses. I have been a teacher's aide for the past 1-1/2 years. I am also deeply involved in ALL cultural activities here in the prison, such as our AALP (Afro-American Literature Program) and (new) Black Prisoner's Caucus (BPC).

Continued on Page 17



Over seven years ago, Naghmana Sherazi moved with her then ten-year-old son to Spokane from southern Texas. She found a job with a genetic testing company, and embarked on a typical Spokane journey: work, pay bills, find childcare, find housing, and find community.

The Issues

A resident of Spokane’s District 1, Naghmana has never moved from the neighborhood that first welcomed her when she arrived as a single parent, an immigrant, and a woman of color. Naghmana has found community and built relationships but work, bills, housing and affordable childcare are still major issues that impact her life and the lives of those in her community. Undeterred, she is on the path to finding solutions and resolving issues that impact her and her community the most. As a city councilperson for District 1, Naghmana will serve those who understand what it is like to live from paycheck to paycheck, to experience housing and food instability, and yet still have hope for a future where resources are accessible to all Spokane residents.

Naghmana’s Decision to Run For City Council, District One

As a member of community organizations that focus on advocacy for marginalized communities, Naghmana decided she needed to do more than advocate. She is a scientist by education and a medical professional. She is used to analyzing problems and implementing solutions. When Spokane’s Proposition One went up for a vote at City Council, she thought of her son and other young people of color in her neighborhood. These young people are citizens of the United States, yet because of the color of their skin, their accent or their clothing, any City employee could ask them for identification. She was instrumental in forming a coalition that she still co-chairs, and stood up for her son, and the sons and daughters of every person of color, race and ethnicity.

Community Connections

Never silent and frequently outspoken, Naghmana is a leader who is not afraid to voice the truth. She writes a column for Spokane Faith and Values where she discusses contemporary issues from a

Muslim perspective. Born and educated in southern Pakistan, Naghmana has reached out to other immigrants, serves on the board of Refugee Connections, is actively involved with the Spokane Coalition of Color, the Center for Justice and is currently an outreach coordinator for Spokane Women Together. Naghmana seeks a future where every member of Spokane contributes to the city’s success and reaps the benefits of their labor.

A Focus on the Future: August 6, 2019

In early August, with your support, Naghmana will do more than stand up. She will be one step closer to serving on Spokane’s City Council, a decision-making body where she can write policy and address issues of racial inequity, economic insecurity, housing instability, wage stagnation, job growth and environmental justice from a position of power.

If you live in District 1 (Nevada-Lidgerwood, Hillyard, Chief Garry Park, Bemis, Logan, University District, and surrounding areas) cast your primary vote for Naghmana Sherazi, District 1 City Council Representative!

This content paid for by People for Naghmana, PO Box 28442, Spokane, 99208, 509-818-0411, peoplefornaghmana.org.

Spokane Success Stories

Asiza Sandoval Loving Her Role at State Farm

When did you move to Spokane?

Spokane Washington was not a place that I had ever even heard of. I'm from Northern California, a little town called Fairfield, and I lived there for the majority of my life. My dad was Navy, so we moved around a little bit, but that's where we landed when he retired.

I moved out here because my husband at the time was working for a company that he wanted to move up in and they didn't have any opportunities out there. So he applied for a job in eastern Washington to show he was interested, thinking they wouldn't give it to him, but they gave it to him. So we moved up here in December 2012, got settled in for I think probably six months, and then we actually end up separated.

It was really one of the best things that ever happened to me. I settled in, found a church home, Victory Faith Fellowship in the Valley, that's very important to me, and made some awesome connections. I had a good job. I had a good church and my thought process was, I can make a good life here. It would be a little scary not having any family or anything like that, and being in a community that isn't diverse by any stretch of the imagination based on where I was coming from, but the people here were just genuinely warm and wonderful, and I met people that really taught me that family doesn't necessarily have to look like you. I made these awesome connections and one of them was actually my current husband's aunt, and we've been married for four years



now. So I just love this community and I've never been happier.

You work for State Farm, how did you get started in the Insurance industry?

I was one of those girls that actually went right to work from high school. I always thought that I would go to college, but for many reasons it didn't pan out, so I went directly into the work world. I was working for a credit card company as a compliance auditor out in California and it was a lot of data entry. I was starting to get carpal tunnel syndrome, so I quit that job. My husband at the time was working a couple of jobs and said if you're going to look for something new, now's the time.

I answered an ad in the newspaper, when people still advertised jobs in the newspaper, just for a front desk position. It ended up being an insurance office. I just answered phones, you know, shuffled papers and things like that, but you

start to hear the conversations and you learn how insurance can impact people and help people. It really is one of those things that I just got drawn into. I've found in the amount of time that I've been in the industry, which has been about 14 years now, that some people take to it and some people don't. I was one of those that really took to it. So my boss invested in me, to get the licenses that I needed to be state certified to sell insurance and I just never really looked back. There are very few fields, I think, that you can get into and have financial success and job satisfaction really without a college degree.

What was it about the field that you were attracted to?

The connection with people. I'm a people person. I love people. I love hearing their stories. I love being able to be a part of their stories. I think that the insurance industry sometimes gets a bad rap. It's that one thing that you have to have, the government says you have to do this and that, but it really can be a useful tool to benefit families, specifically in the Black community. I don't know if we prepare as well as we should.

So, what is your role now?

It's called an Agency Field Specialist. I'm basically a process coach, if you will. I work with folks who have their own agency and make sure that they've got what they need to be successful and have the processes in place to do that.

Continued on Page 20

Constructing a Pipeline of Success



Kahlil Winfrey, Coach Cecil Jackson and Olivia Ellis are pictured while competing in the NCAA West Regionals held in Sacramento, CA.

By Keith Jones

Kahlil Winfrey and Olivia Ellis, are juniors at the University of Washington and Montana. They are track scholarship athletes who are products of Spokane Public Schools and Spokane Speed Academy (SSA), coached by Cecil Jackson. Building on a sure foundation is important for sustainability and these two are just one example. Constructing a pipeline of success requires all of us working in concert. The stronger the network, the stronger the net worth.

The Power of We

Unitarian Universalist Church Holds General Assembly in Spokane - June 19 - 23



Nancy Pierce/UUA



Nancy Pierce/UUA



Nancy Pierce/UUA



Christopher L. Walton/UUA



Nancy Pierce/UUA



Nancy Pierce/UUA



Christopher L. Walton/UUA



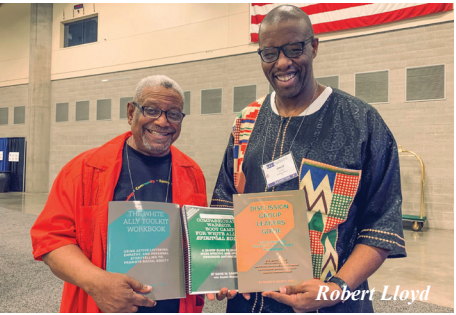
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Robert Lloyd



Sunny Cook/UUCS



Christopher L. Walton/UUA



Black Lens



Black Lens



Robert Lloyd



Robert Lloyd



Sunny Cook/UUCS



Christopher L. Walton/UUA



Lannie MacAndrea/UUCS

Side With Love: No New Jail



Christopher L. Walton/UUA

We are here today to Side with Love and demonstrate the power of love for our people: our people who are locked in cages, our people who need mental health solutions instead of jail sentences; employment opportunities instead of convictions; homes instead of profiling, ticketing and arrests; and dignity instead of deportations; most importantly we are here to support JUSTICE! We are here in solidarity with our family, our beloved community. ~UUA - Side with Love

One thousand Unitarian Universalists from across the country participated in this year's Public Witness as a part of the 2019 UUA General Assembly that took place in Spokane, WA, June 19 - 23.

Joining forces with local activists on June 20, the UUA's Side with Love campaign, coordinated by Everette Thompson, hosted a march and rally called *Demand Smart Justice for Spokane*, to challenge a plan that has been proposed by Spokane's Board of County Commissioners to expand the existing Spokane County Jail or build a new one.

"A principle of the Unitarian Universalist faith tradition proclaims 'the inherent worth and dignity of every person.' Caging people denies their dignity and denies our collective potential to normalize reconciliation and restorative justice. We must end the expansion of jails because there is a better way," said UUA President, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray.

The march and rally was named, "Demand Smart Justice for Spokane," to acknowledge the work of Spokane's Smart Justice Coalition, which includes more than 30 organizations advocating to end mass incarceration in Spokane. In addition to the SMART Justice Coalition, the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, the Spokane NAACP, and Spokane Community Against Racism (SCAR) also participated in the event.

Speakers included: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, President of the UUA; Liz Moore, Executive Director, Peace and Justice Action League Spokane; Angel Tomeo Sam, The Spokane Bail Project; Sandy Williams, Black Lens News, Rev. Walter Kendricks, President of the Spokane Ministers Fellowship, Duaa-Rahemaah Williams, criminal justice reform advocate; Rev. Dr. Todd Ekloff, UUCS Minister; and a statement was read from Kurtis Robinson, President of the Spokane NAACP.



Christopher L. Walton/UUA



Robert Lloyd



Nancy Pierce/UUA



Robert Lloyd



Robert Lloyd



Robert Lloyd



Robert Lloyd



Robert Lloyd



Robert Lloyd



Christopher L. Walton/UUA



Nancy Pierce/UUA



Christopher L. Walton/UUA



Nancy Pierce/UUA



Robert Lloyd



Robert Lloyd



Robert Lloyd



Christopher L. Walton/UUA



Christopher L. Walton/UUA



Cristina Sanchis & Jay Pacitti (UUA), Sharon Smith & Lerria Schuh (Smith-Barbieri Progressive Fund), Betsy Wilkerson & Sandy Williams (Carl Maxey Center)

Unitarian Universalists Donate \$40,000 to Carl Maxey Center

Continued from Page 1

Previous service projects include: Communities Creating Opportunity (CCO), a bi-state, social justice organization in Kansas (2018); Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children (FFLIC), whose mission is to create a better life for all of Louisiana's youth, especially those involved in or targeted by the juvenile justice system (2017); and the Horizon Prison Initiative whose work is to restore the incarcerated to purposeful living through mentoring, education, and spiritual growth (2016).

The Carl Maxey Center was invited to staff a booth in the exhibit hall throughout the General Assembly, giving attendees the opportunity to meet Board members and volunteers and to learn more about the Center and its vision.

During the Sunday morning service, the Carl Maxey Center's Board and Executive Director were invited onto the stage to do an "ask." Sandy Williams talked about Carl Maxey, the center's namesake, shared the center's background and history, the desire of the Board to address Spokane's racial disparities, the tremendous support received from the local community (including the Spokane UU Church) which enabled the purchase of the Maxey Center building and adjacent lot, and the Board's goals for the future.

The result was an incredible outpouring of support and a generous donation of \$39,500 (and counting) from Unitarians in attendance and those watching the live stream across the country. Funds will be applied to the Carl Maxey Center's operational budget and towards the building remodel, which is expected to start this summer.

2019 JUNETEENTH

Juneteenth Celebration BBQ - June 15 - Liberty Park - www.inwjc.org



Photos Courtesy Black Lens News

SHADES OF ME

Pop Up Gallery Show

Carl Maxey Center
3118 E 5th Avenue Spokane, WA 99202

JUNE 15
5:00PM to 8:00PM



Carl Maxey Center Hosts Shades of Me Pop Up Gallery Show

The Carl Maxey Center was excited to partner with **Shades of Me** for our very first event to be held in the Carl Maxey Center Building. On June 15, Deva Logan and the Shades Me artists (Amanda Roy, Randy Budano, Brittany Trambitas, Frances Grace Mortel) transformed the Carl Maxey Center's garage into an amazing pop up art gallery, bringing art and culture to a neighborhood that is too often overlooked. Fifty people stopped by to meet the artists, learn about their work and hear their stories. The Carl Maxey Center is already making plans for more events like this in the near future.

For more information about Shades of Me visit: shadesof.me



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2019 Pride Parade & Festival

June 8, 2019

"To Thrive, Not Just Survive"

Since 1992, Spokane has seen the LGBTQ+ community come together each year to honor the brave individuals that fought back against the police raids in 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in New York. The Stonewall Riots were a turning point for the gay rights movement. The following year, in 1970, the cities of Chicago, Los Angeles and New York all held parades commemorating the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. Since then, cities around the globe have started marches and parades as well. This year Spokane celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots with a record breaking attendance of 27,000 at Spokane Pride.



Photos Courtesy: Robert Lloyd, Janet Culbertson, Theresa Cronin, Black Lens News.

Violent Crackdown in Sudan Funded by "Arab Leaders"

Editor's Note: According to media reports, the death toll in Sudan has risen to at least 100 following the deadly military raid mentioned in this article. On Sunday, June 30, tens of thousands of people took to the streets in the first mass demonstration since the raid. Ten people were killed.

June 3, 2019 (GIN) – The hopeful path to peace in Sudan evaporated almost overnight as members of Sudan’s military junta suddenly cocked their rifles and aimed them at a sit-down demonstration by hundreds of civilians.

Over 30 Sudanese peaceful protestors preparing for the Muslim ritual Eid al Fitr – Festival of Breaking the Fast – lost their lives in an instant. Audio from civilian radios posted online captured the sounds of crying, shouting, and nonstop gunfire.

The question on everyone’s lips has been: What changed? What unleashed this deadly assault on quietly seated pro-democracy demonstrators?

Some analysts suspect the influence of ‘outside agitators’ – namely the autocratic leaders of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates – who had tried to maintain ousted president Omar al-Bashir in power but, failing that, would fuel a counter-coup under the leadership of Sudan’s restive military junta.



These countries had faced their own “Arab Spring” years back and were unwilling to see another pro-democracy movement rise in this major center of influence, reports Simon Tisdall of The Guardian news.

Only a week before, negotiations appeared to be nearing a settlement between Sudan’s ruling military junta and the civilian leaders of a movement that was now numbering in the thousands. But the talks stalled over a core demand that civilians assume

immediate leadership of the country until elections could be held.

The Sudanese military leaders turned to their allies in the anti-democratic governments of Egypt, the UAE and Saudi Arabia and help was forthcoming.

Egyptian President Abdel Fatah al-Sisi and Saudi crown prince Mohammed bin Salman promised \$3 billion in aid, Tisdall reported, while the powerful Emirati crown prince, Mohammed bin Zayed, vowed to

help “preserve Sudan’s security and stability”.

Al-Sisi, who publicly pledged to honor the “will of the Sudanese people”, is believed to playing both sides of the struggle, seeing Egyptian interests in the Nile water disputes as a possible outcome for backing the generals.

Egypt has already given the Sudanese junta significant assistance. The African Union, which Egypt currently chairs, set a 15-day deadline for the military to hand over power when Bashir fell. The deadline was extended to three months, however, when al-Sisi intervened.

While some in Sudan’s pro-democracy movement had anticipated foreign meddling, the brutality of the attack leveled at civilians with tear gas and live rounds of ammunition were shocking. utmost restraint”.

And on Twitter, a tweet signed Mehairy J. Blige read: “We are trying to overthrow one government but instead we are facing four. Our own and the gulf “allies” funding and organizing these massacres.”

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Tongues of Fire

By Beverly Spears

A Sacred Place



(Note: The following contains graphic language describing violent events)

Nothing could have prepared me for the experience of standing amongst the symbols of terror and brutality hanging above me and beside me on the 90-degree May afternoon in Montgomery, Alabama. The oppressive Southern heat and thick humidity was as intense and weighty as the heaviness in my soul.

I was at *The National Memorial for Peace and Justice*, more commonly known as the Lynching Memorial. The Memorial is the Nation's first memorial exclusively dedicated to the thousands of Black people terrorized and tortured by lynching during the Jim Crow era. Jim Crow laws were state and local laws that enforced racial segregation in the Southern States from the late 19th and early 20th centuries until about 1965. The lynchings were concentrated in twelve Southern states.

From the Memorial's literature: *Set on a six-acre site the memorial uses sculpture, art, literature and design to contextualize racial terror and oppression. The space is the physical manifestation of years of work by the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) to identify more than 4,000 documented African-American men, women and children who were lynched between 1877 and 1950.*

I was standing among 805 suspended steel monuments, each the size and shape of a coffin; one for each county of the United States where racial lynchings had been documented. When known, the full names of the lynched person and the date of the lynching are engraved and listed on each monument. Other placards line the walls with more detailed accounts of the lynchings.

On one steel monument representing Little River County, Arkansas, eleven names and dates are engraved. Eight of these men were lynched together on the same day. Some appear to be from the same families: Adam King, 3-22-1899; Joseph King, 3-22-1899; Benjamin Jones, 3-22-1899; Joseph Jones, 3-22-1899; Moses Jones, 3-22-1899; Unknown, 3-22-1899; General Duckett, 3-22-1899; Edwin Goodwin, 3-22-1899.

David Walker, his wife and four children were lynched in Hickman, Kentucky, in 1908 after Mr. Walker was accused of using inappropriate language with a white woman. A lynch mob of more than 1,000 men, women and children burned Zachariah Walker alive in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, in 1911. Eli Persons was lynched by a white mob of 5,000 people



in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1917. Will Brown was lynched in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1919 by a riotous white mob of up to 15,000 people.

Mary Turner was thirty-three years old, and eight months pregnant, when her husband was lynched by a white mob. Turner threatened to have members of the mob arrested for murdering her husband. To punish her, on May 19, 1918, several hundred white people brought Mary to Folsom Bridge, which borders Brooks and Lowndes counties in Georgia. They tied her ankles, hung her upside down from a tree, doused her in gasoline and motor oil and set her on fire. Turner was still alive when a man split her abdomen open with a knife and her unborn child fell on the ground. Reports say the baby was stomped on, and Turner's body then riddled with hundreds of bullets.

As poignant and overwhelming as the hanging steel monuments were, there was another exhibit just as heart-rending: A large wall, ten feet high and fifteen feet wide, with row after row of shelves containing gallon-sized jars, filled with dirt – dirt collected from documented lynching sites all across the State of Alabama. There was dirt of every color and grade, some filled with red clay or yellow clay, some mixed with green moss. Dirt, once steeped in blood. Dirt, onto which mutilated, lifeless bodies once dropped from the tree limbs above, when the disfigured body was cut down by family members of the victim. And on the jars more names, and more dates: John Calloway, Leesburg, Alabama, 1898; John Dell, Montgomery, Alabama, October 7, 1910; George Davis, Birmingham Al-

abama, August 24, 1934. This was only Alabama, and only the lynchings that are known.

I read about the Memorial when it first opened on April 26, 2018. I told myself then that I would never visit it, because I would be too emotionally overwhelmed. I was doing what so many people do—black, white or other. For different reasons we avoid facing the ugly truth that is the legacy of the enslavement of 10.5 million Africans in North America, South America and the Caribbean. We avoid it because it is gut-wrenchingly painful, and it enrages us. Some avoid it out of shame, guilt, indifference, or perhaps a sense of impotency. They don't understand why we must dredge up the atrocities and pain of past events? What good can come of remembering? White people may wonder, what can we possibly do to atone for the horrendous sins of those that came before us?

The Equal Justice Initiative believes that truth and reconciliation are sequential, and that our oppressive history must be addressed by honestly and soberly recognizing the pain of the past, if there is ever to be healing of the intergenerational trauma suffered both personally and collectively by Black America.

The gruesome atrocities of the past must be named openly, publicly and widely: *Public acknowledgment of mass violence is essential not only for victims and survivors, but also for perpetrators and bystanders who suffer from trauma and damage related to their participation in systematic violence and dehumanization.—EJI*

As I walked through the monument grounds, I came on one of the many placards that had been posted all along the winding path. All of them so far had told a part of the story, or shared a quote, or explained the exhibited sculptures. This one said, "This memorial is a sacred place. Please be respectful and do not eat, drink, smoke, litter, use sound-emitting electronic devices, make loud noises, run, or damage any part of the monument artworks or plants. No pets, skateboards or bicycles are permitted."

This placard struck me as incongruous and pedestrian, set as it was among the other informative, descriptive, even poetically poignant placards — stuck in the middle of the site, not at its entrance. It was also a little insulting. Should not "This is a sacred place" have been enough? Isn't it obvious how one is to approach and conduct oneself in a sacred place?

I could barely speak, let alone laugh out loud, listen to music, eat — smoke, for God's sake! It would be sacrilege for anyone to skateboard through this memory of terror and sorrow, or let a pet relieve itself on the grass of this hallowed ground.

And then it struck me -- some people have no sense of the sacred. Look where I was standing. A human being could only do what was done to the Black people represented here, because they told themselves Black people had no souls. To them there was nothing sacred about Black lives.

Today, people think a sacred place can only be inside a church, or synagogue or mosque, or perhaps standing high on a mountain looking out over a breathtaking vista of God's glorious creation. I hear them wondering, how could there be anything sacred about a place thrusting the very essence of evil and inhumanity into our consciousness.

A sacred place is a place where something deep and true and holy happens. *The National Memorial for Peace and Justice* is a sacred place; a place where everyone in America should make pilgrimage. A place where transcending Love heals and makes whole those who have been despised and wounded. Here, we name our collective demons and call them out. Here we lay our burdens down and go and sin no more. Here in this place, the dead are raised to life in our hearts and minds — mourned, remembered and honored by the generations that vow their deaths will not have been in vain.

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Pastor Walter Kendricks New Eastern Washington Representative for the Commission on African American Affairs

By Walter Kendricks

Greetings all,

My prayer is this message finds you well in body and Spirit.

I am writing to introduce myself to this community and to inform you of the tasks that lie before all of us.

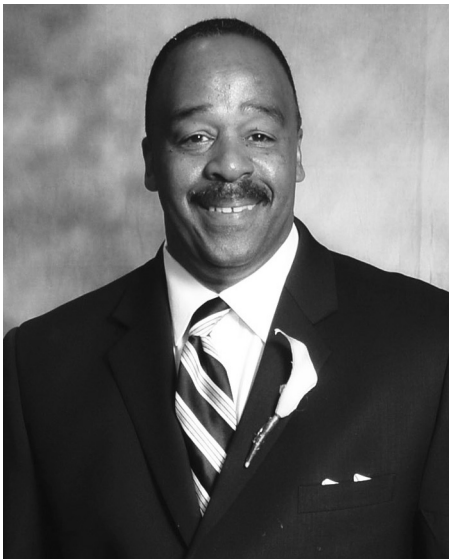
I am Walter Kendricks. It has been an honor and privilege for me to have been allowed to serve as Pastor of the Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church of Spokane since November of 2013.

I also have had the honor of serving as President of the Spokane Ministerial Fellowship since January of 2015 and as a founding member of SCAR (Spokane Community Against Racism) which came into existence after the unjust verdict rendered by an all-white jury in the William Poindexter murder trial in Spokane a few years ago.

I now have the additional honor of being appointed by Governor Inslee to the State of Washington Commission on African American Affairs (C A A A), which is my purpose in writing this article.

I have huge shoes to fill, for I succeed Sandy Williams, community activist and Publisher of this newspaper, the Black Lens, on this Commission. We all are thankful to her for her tireless efforts and dedication to our community displayed through her service.

The Commission on African American Affairs serves as the official state representative of the African American community—advising the Governor, Legislature and state agencies regarding policy development and implementation. The Commission also works to establish relationships with local gov-



ernments and private sector organizations that promote equal opportunity for African Americans.

Rest assured, I shall continue, as did Ms. Williams, in being an Advocate for all issues of concern to the African American community of Spokane to the Governmental bodies in Olympia.

Unlike other organizations, who are doing marvelous work in this community, my focus is squarely upon our community and all community members.

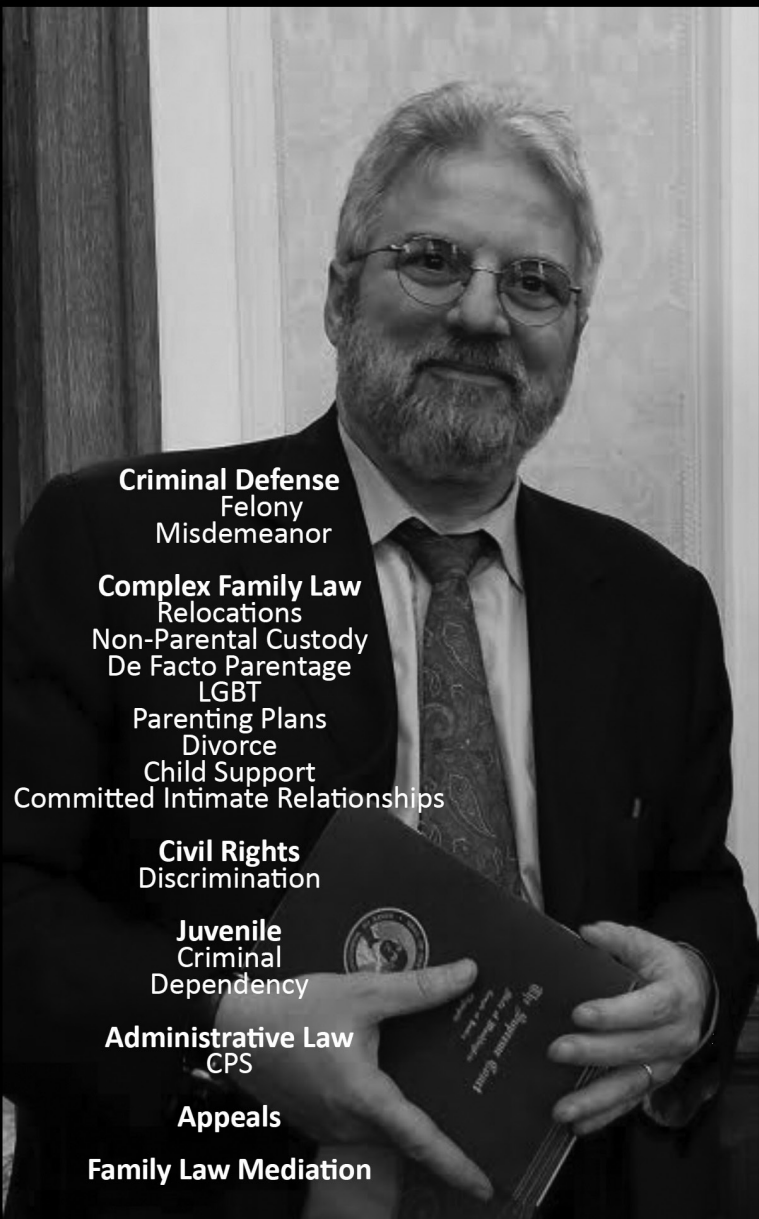
If you have any concerns or questions concerning the CAAA, please contact me. You may reach me at 509 534 4878, or via email: wkendricks@outlook.com.

It is my intention to communicate with this community through a periodic article in this paper, among other means.

Until next time, remain vigilant and become active, if you are not doing so at present. See you out in the community.

And so, it goes.
W. J. Kendricks
Pastor, Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church

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David Hall Earns College Degree at Airway Heights Correctional Facility

Continued from Page 8

All of us who are involved love to work with each other, teaching the prison population how to be 'Real Men,' about responsibility, and to not run away from commitment, so that we can return as leaders for our family.

We are also passionate about criminal justice reform, overcoming racial inequality, and plan to incorporate workshops and seminars as a measure of inviting the community and to get involved.

8) What are your hopes for your future?

Right now, I endeavor to encourage more minorities in Education. I hope to help improve the conditions of our criminal justice system by incorporating Restorative Justice principles and by networking with prominent criminal justice experts. (I'm working on this right now). I hope to increase my success, step by step. I simply plan to get a decent job once I get released. (Seattle or Spokane). I plan to save my

money for startup capital to run a small business. Then I plan to save enough revenue to launch non-profits for programs to educate at-risk youth, entrepreneurship and public speaking. I just wish I had someone to mentor me before I committed my crimes. So I desire to mentor at-risk youth to prevent them from experiencing the penitentiary.

9) What do young Black men need from the Black Community that they are not getting?

This is a tough, delicate question to answer. Young men must be "guided" into adulthood, and this is what some parts of the Black community are struggling with. Like how babies are learning to become children, young Black men need "guidance" on how to be responsible, mature adults. It is best for any male adult to take on that role as a model, but a mother's love is equally important and sometimes suffices without male models.

There are some young Black men who receive both family and community support

and they become productive, positive, and charismatic men in the community. That young man's path for greatness shall not be disturbed. However, for the young Black men in need of family and Black Community support, they may need extended support on a "one on one" basis. They need to be rewarded and congratulated for any improvement and development that they exhibit. They also need to be protected from bad influences and the street life. It is best for these young men to freely but intellectually express themselves, but they need positive-discipline/structure in their life and to learn what it means to be responsible.

Young men can learn responsibility in the home or in the community by empowering them with jobs and duties. The elders of our community have to continue to "encourage our youth to TAKE THE FOREFRONT, and address the issues of our community." The Black community needs diversity in our government, support for Black businesses, and to address racial inequality. When I get released, one of my long term goals is to launch nonprofit programs that

would teach and encourage at-risk youth entrepreneurship and public speaking."

10) Anything else that you want to share that I didn't ask?

Humbly, I want to ask all available community members devoted to criminal justice reform, restorative justice, and overcoming racial inequality, to share their thoughts and info on this matter with the AHCC Black Prisoner's Caucus. I recall watching BrianStevenson in his Van Jones interview saying something to the effect of, if you care about criminal justice reform, then you have to "visit the jails and prisons to hear 'their' story."

I especially want to thank the Black Lens for this exceptional opportunity and I also want to thank the honorables for seeing my potential and believing in me: Dr. Bartlett, Sherry Merritt, Bernice Buchanan, and Dr. Scott Finnie (professor of EWU-AfroAmerican Studies).

Contact The Black Prisoners Caucus with any comments or questions: www.bpceast@gmail.com

OUR VOICES

Not Every Black Girl Survives Private School

By Arah Iloabugichukwu

(Reprinted from medium.com)

Sidney and I met on the school van the morning of our first day as 6th graders. It was rare for me to find another West African in our city, let alone another Nigerian my age, but her father's heavily accented farewells were a dead giveaway. "Igbo," I asked the stranger. "Yoruba," she replied. From that day on, Sidney and I would be each other's familiar face in the strange place we called school. As we awaited our first day tour guides, we joked about how much we stuck out in our new environment. We were the only Black girls we'd seen on the campus so far and the staring was confirmation of that. Still, we couldn't help but to notice how different this campus was in comparison to the ones we were used to. With its plush student lounges marked with signs that read "No Teachers Allowed", floor to ceiling mahogany lockers and indoor tennis court, this campus was more than we could've imagined. Throughout the day we listened to administration rave about this being their most diverse year. We didn't feel like 5 Black girls out of 48 was some huge accomplishments but given that private schools are more likely to be "virtually all white" (having a white student population of over 90%) we can see where the excitement stemmed from. That day would be a turning point for the both of us, kicking off a series of events that would change the course of our lives forever. I'm grateful that I survived the hallways of my prestigious pseudo-prison. I wish the same could be said for my best friend, Sidney.

It took about 2 weeks for the harsh reality of our new environment to set in. There was no real transition out of our inner city schools, which were both majority Black and majority low income. Little did we know private schools in America had long maintained their top tier status by excluding both populations. And even decades after ushering white families through the era of forced integration, these schools had neither the resources nor the regard for Black students. One afternoon, we were chased down by a cafeteria employee accusing Sidney and I of not paying. With no receipts and no security cameras to vouch for us, we quietly followed the lady back to the cafeteria where another worker recalled ringing us out. Disappointed by the lack of scandal, our accuser sent us on our way with our shame. Our classmates, in an attempt to unpack the situation, concluded that we were new (aka Black) and on scholarship (aka poor) and that that justified the worker's suspicion. "I'm not on scholarship!" Sidney snapped. We both were, but I could see how embarrassed Sidney was by the assertion that because we received financial assistance, we would need to steal food.

By the time we reached the 8th grade, Sidney's brand of mean girl had become a campus favorite. She slowly embraced the "resident Black bitch" title she'd earned around campus and whatever people thought of her, they knew better than to say it to her face. I knew Sidney was playing a role and I didn't judge her for it. We had been stripped of our innocence the moment we entered an environment where our differences were used to demean us. Being subjected to the intentional micro aggressions of our classmates and educators was just the price we paid for "making it out". And being publicly paraded around as diversity initiatives in front of donors and board members got old quick. Along with being told we were too sensitive every time a classmate blurted out the N word and constantly being reminded that parent donations were the only reason we were there in the first place. Every day was a constant reminder that we were unwanted and unwelcome, that it was pity affording us the opportunity to learn alongside the daughters of the city's elite and we should express our gratitude a little more quietly.

Things very quickly fell apart as we both entered the 9th grade. I opted to add cutting to my self-destructive repertoire of anorexia, Sidney added marijuana and adderall to hers. The year took us on vastly different journeys but taught us a common lesson: Black girls don't get to be victims. Now we experienced first hand what's been well



documented throughout history, adults in the US generally see Black girls as less innocent. But I was totally unprepared for Mrs. Schneider, a woman who had accused me of cheating 4 times in one school year despite my failing chemistry perfectly fine on my own. Assigned an element from the periodic table, we were required to present an informative poster board to the class. I placed my poster board in the chem lab before homeroom, only to discover at the start of 4th period that my poster had vanished. "Let me guess, you don't have it do you?" she asked while watching me frantically search the stack of posters in the back of the class. "I was with her when she brought it", one of my classmates chimed in, "Yeah it had pennies on it, right Arah" another added. Mrs. Schneider instructed everyone to be quiet and ordered me to the guidance counselor. I knew there was no way my word would be taken over hers. I was given detention off of the mere mention of copied homework. Without photographic evidence of my poster, I was doomed. That day I received my first ever suspension. Mrs Schneider smirked as the principal chastised me on the severity of my alleged actions. Before I could retreat to the lounge and lick my wounds, Mrs. Schneider snapped, demanding justification for my one day suspension. Unable to hide her hatred of me any longer, she lamented about how there was a reason I couldn't afford to attend the school, that I was academically incapable of keeping up with my peers and had the grades to prove it. Not a single person in the room came to my defense. I returned from my suspension only to see my poster board on display in the student lounge, a cleaning person found it shoved behind a supply cabinet in Mrs. Schneider's room. There was no apology. There was no recanting of the publicly made accusations. The suspension remained on my record, and I was given a C for the assignment. There was no amount of wrong that a white woman could commit that would warrant an apology to a Black girl like me.

I still remember the day the police came to our house asking to take a look at our computer. Apparently someone had been sending death threats to a few of the popular girls in our class, Sidney included, and their parents had contacted the local authorities. The Oregon Trail was all the cops were going to find so I was quickly ruled out but the mood on campus had noticeably shifted the following week. Everything was about mental health, suicide prevention, recognizing depression, stress management and supporting friends through difficult times. As the rogue AIM account continued to send threats of razor blades in baked goods, the accusations continued to fly. Rumor had it a couple of the goth girls were behind the threats and the school spared no expense providing round the clock mental health professionals and counselors to help us all process through the ongoing situation. No matter what, we were to remain open minded and understanding of whoever was behind the account, remembering that she was still one of us and it was our duty to show compassion. She may have been a criminal, but she was just as much a victim.

That all changed when the real mastermind behind the account was revealed. There were no counselors or mental

health workers that day, just two uniformed police officers entering homeroom to inform Sidney that she was under arrest for making terroristic threats. As the dust settled, we had some group discussions about the incident and Sidney's role in it all. There were no affirming words or calls for supper, only tears from her former friends recounting how unhinged Sidney had always been. Sidney was no victim. Despite the parents pursuing criminal charges, Sidney was let off with community service and zoned to one of the worst performing high schools in the state, banned from campus forever. I watched how Sidney was discarded and forgotten by the same people who just recently preached forgiveness. But when it was revealed to be Sidney, the "resident Black bitch" all sympathies were out the window. She was entertainment for them, she was that "pop of color" white people love so much, a pet for the prestigious or the quintessential Black friend but she was never anything more than that. This was her proof.

It took Sidney and the rest of us years to perfect our disguises so I wasn't surprised that she was having a hard time acclimating to the outside world without it. I knew she had developed a serious drug habit and was apparently dodging her parents' efforts to send her back to Nigeria for school, but when I heard she had gone missing I was overcome with guilt. On June 10, 2004, the body of a young woman found deceased in the river was identified as Sidney. No foul play was suspected and the coroner ruled her death the result of an accidental drug overdose. Truth be told, our beloved institution killed my friend way before she lost her life. Every year I watch Black parents in my hometown brag about their children's admissions to my alma mater and I can't help but to feel frustrated. Knowing most Black communities lack the resources and the funding to offer their children MacBooks and gourmet lunch menus, it's either the public sector or the private one. And the private one comes with a host of challenges that shouldn't be dismissed.

I'm one of the fortunate ones who didn't succumb to the psychological beatings we endured over the years, I know many more who weren't so fortunate. It's not always the big things that chip away at your sense of self worth, it's being paraded around so rich white people can see who their donations purchased, being treated like a charity case, being the go to for all of white America's diversity initiatives and then shoved back on the shelf. As a parent myself, I understand the importance of placing a child in an environment that will challenge and develop them, but what happens when the best place for your child academically is the worst place for them both socially and mentally? Does anyone step in to repair the damage these white institutions inflict on Black children? I tell Sidney's story to combat the idea that whatever doesn't kill Black girls makes them stronger. Our community needs to challenge the narrative that says white academic spaces are inherently better for Black children, snap out of whatever programming has conditioned us to believe that white educators have our children's best interest at heart and acknowledge that children cannot be appropriately educated in spaces where they're pitied and expendable. Sidney never got to be the graduate of one of the country's top all-girl prep academies. She didn't have her Ivy League acceptance letters plastered all over social media for everyone to celebrate. She was discarded of twice, once by them and again by us and therein lies the tragedy. For every Black private school grad who beats the odds, in the streets and in the classroom, there are girls like Sidney who lose both battles and both stories need to be told. Both stories give an in-depth look at the plight of Black girls in America and calls upon our community to recognize their fragility and protect them, because not every Black girl survives private school.

Arah Iloabugichukwu is a writer and journalist who ditched the 9-5 for a life of storytelling. She credits her "non-traditionally traditional" upbringing with her unique perspective and intricately webbed subject matter. Hailing from small-town Western Pennsylvania, Arah currently resides in Houston, Texas where she writes for urban publication, Madame Noire.

@ArahTheQuill www.ArahTheQuill.com

OUR VOICES

Mitch McConnell's Reparations Comments Belittle the Issue

By David A. Love, JD

(CNN) — If you've heard of "40 acres and a mule," then you know that the concept of America paying reparations for the enslavement of black people is by no means a new idea.

The concept has been discussed since 1865 when the promise to repay - I use that term loosely - former slaves was made by Union Gen. William T. Sherman and then backed by President Abraham Lincoln and Congress.

As we know, the promise would be broken (when President Andrew Johnson withdrew the offer).

Since then, the national conversation around America's history with slavery and how the country should atone for its past has been pushed aside - coming up only occasionally in pockets of discussion.

But now, and rightfully so, it seems like the importance of reparations is being brought to the forefront.

This year on - Juneteenth, the commemoration of the end of slavery - the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties was scheduled to do just that. The committee discussed H.R. 40, legislation introduced by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, to address the "fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery" in the United States, establish a commission to study and consider a national apology, and reparations proposal for slavery and racial and economic discrimination against African-Americans, and make recommendations to Congress.

Actor Danny Glover and author Ta-Nehisi Coates are among those who testified. The hear-

ing is a step in the right direction of America coming to terms with its legacy of slavery.

Another step is the support of reparations by Democratic presidential candidates Julian Castro, Beto O'Rourke, Sens. Elizabeth Warren, Cory Booker and Kamala Harris, and Marianne Williamson.

While Democrats support the bill and the idea of reparations in general, 68% of Americans, according to a 2016 Marist Poll, say that the United States should not repay the descendants of slaves. This included 81% of white Americans and 35% of black Americans.

Those who can't see the importance of Wednesday's congressional hearing and the H.R. 40 bill, usually argue that slavery was "so long ago." Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell thinks reparations are not a good idea, claiming "it would be pretty hard to figure out who to compensate," and claims "none of us currently living are responsible" for what happened 150 years ago. McConnell believes America made up for slavery by electing Barack Obama, and passing civil rights legislation - though he sees no need to restore the Voting Rights Act, and calls efforts to expand voting rights a "half-baked, socialist proposal."

Such arguments only belittle the issue, ignore history and the present, and are designed to obfuscate and change the subject. America always was - and continues to be - a divisive place, built on the enslavement of Africans and the genocide of native people.

Between 10 million and 15 million African people were kidnapped and transported in slave ships across the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas, more than 54,000 voyages over 300 years between the 16th and 19th centuries. As many as 40% died after they were captured in Africa or



aboard the floating dungeons sailing for one to three months across the Middle Passage. Under half a million African people were shipped to North America, of which 40% entered through the port of Charleston, South Carolina -- where my family originates.

The slave trade and the bondage of human beings built American capitalism and Wall Street, allowing individuals, families, corporations, universities and others to amass great inheritable wealth for future generations to enjoy. All the while, African-Americans - kidnapped and robbed of everything, condemned to forced labor, raped, tortured and murdered - never received compensation for their free labor, or relief for the intergenerational trauma from which they continue to suffer.

And that legacy is not only a matter of distant historical events from hundreds of years ago but rather what is taking place today.

Years of inequities and institutional racism, including systemic barriers to employment and access to capital have created a racial wealth gap. According to a 2018 report from the Center

for American Progress, "these disparities that exist today can be traced back to public policies, both implicit and explicit: from slavery to Jim Crow, from redlining to school segregation, and from mass incarceration to environmental racism."

In 2016, the average white household has more than 10 times the median wealth of a black household, a gap that hard work and education does not erase, according to a 2018 Duke University study, therefore requiring policy interventions. According to Duke's William "Sandy" Darity Jr., co-author of the study, reparations require acknowledgment, restitution and closure.

While no amount of money can begin to overcome hundreds of years of chattel slavery and its present day vestiges, reparations may assume any number of other forms, according to the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America, such as land, economic and community development, exoneration of political prisoners, scholarships, racially unjust laws and the freeing of political prisoners, even resources for those who want to repatriate to Africa.

Reparations are not only about the slavery that many Americans do not learn in history class but rather extend to Jim Crow segregation and today's ongoing racism. The debt owed to black Americans is great, and the time to consider paying that debt is now.

Originally published by CNN.com

David A. Love, JD - Serves BlackCommentator.com as Executive Editor. He is a journalist, commentator, human rights advocate and an adjunct instructor at the Rutgers University School of Communication and Information based in Philadelphia, and a contributor to theGrio, AtlantaBlackStar, The Progressive, CNN.com, Morpheus, NewsWorks and The Huffington Post. He also blogs at davidalove.com.

Just Something to Think About

"From Kings, to Niggas"



By Kendu D. Humphreys

From great gods, to thugged out gangsters.

From Noble Kings, to no good ass nig-gas.

From dedicated fathers, to dead beat baby daddies.

From head off the house hold, to "Tyrone" with all your shit in a black plastic bag in the corner, and one foot out the door.

From being heroes in our children eyes, to becoming the most hated in their hearts.

From home grown leaders in the community, to manufactured negropean puppets that have no care of what is happening in the community.

From warriors for our Queens, to one of the most destructive forces against our true sistas.

From being upright men that believed in "your word is bond", to rappers with self loathing empty words.

From praised global giants, to targets around the world...

Somewhere between "Reaganomics", crack, and equal opportunity, many men in our community accepted being a "Nigga".

Most real "Niggas" will tell you, they are totally different from a traditional "Nigger", but the only difference is the one saying it.

I've witnessed a significant transformation in the values (to say the least) in our community once this "Niggerish" mentality took hold to entire generations, and sucked in many individuals of older generations.

Our music is drenched with "nigga, nigga, nigga". Denzel Washington couldn't win an Oscar until he said "nigga, nigga, nigga". Most times we can't hang around 3 or more Nubians without hearing "nigga, nigga, nigga". It's gotten so bad, it's cool for everyone else to call us "niggas, niggas, niggas"...

It was 1985 when I was first accused of being "the N word". I was in Brunswick, GA, and a person called me a "Yankee-nigger", to my face. It took what seemed like forever for my mind to register, if I was hearing right. No one had ever called me that, and I was

disciplined to never except being labeled as one. Back in those days, the simple mention of any likeness to that word, would get you "hurt really bad". I eventually came to my senses, and assisted that guy in his quest for a bad day.

By 1986-88, more southern urban communities picked up the term "my nigga". I also had major problems with this, so I distanced myself from those that thought like that.

Once the 90's rolled in, many people in most urban neighborhoods couldn't speak 3 words, without saying "nigga" 5 times (lol, but so true).

Our music would not get any air play, if "nigga, nigga, nigga" wasn't in the song. And nowadays "nigga, nigga, nigga" is marketable, with no profits to the community that is labeled as such.

Our sons and daughters no longer say, "great dad", they identify their fathers as "some

POETRY AT THE PODIUM

Open Call for Submissions



In 2019, Spokane poets will raise their voices at Spokane City Council Meetings.

Interested in reading?

Submit one poem via the Submittable portal below:
<https://spokanearts.submittable.com>





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Tennis Summer Camp

Cannon Park, 1511 N. Elm, Spokane 99201

Session I begins:
July 2

Session II begins:
July 12/23

Ages 7-9 Tuesday/Wednesday 3-4pm

Ages 10-12 Tuesday/Wednesday 4-5pm

Equipment included. Scholarships and Financial Aid Available.
(Financial Aid Forms available at West Central Community Center)

For more information about financial aid or how to get started contact Coach Kevin Trim at 509-990-0317.



Mobley Found Guilty of Second Degree Murder in Death of Caiden Henry

Continued from Page 1

That he placed the sleeping baby alone in the upstairs bedroom at his parent's house because that's where the baby bed was kept. That Caiden was placed on the rear seat of the car because that was where he was always placed, although that was disputed by Henry.

The Defense presented family members who testified that they had seen Caiden the evening of the 26th and had not seen any bruises on him. They had seen Caiden "move" and "make sounds," they said. No crying, however.

In an effort to create reasonable doubt, the Defense also argued that Henry, who that day left work early to go to the hospital because she was having pain behind her eye, (which is the reason the Mobley's still had Caiden that evening), was given a cocktail of medication at the hospital, including Benadryl, and perhaps the medication may have led her to kill her son.

Both sides testified that the Mobley's picked Henry up from the hospital around 9:30pm. Mobley brought the still "sleeping" Caiden into the house and placed him on the living room couch, telling Henry not to wake him. Henry fell asleep on a second couch near Caiden. She testified that she woke up early on the 27th, thinking she had slept through Caiden crying for his feeding, but instead discovered that he

was not breathing. A recording of Henry's heart wrenching 911 call was played for jurors.

Curtis Hampton, one of several community members who attended the trial each day, said he decided to be there because he "heard a lot of conversations about the verdict in the Poindexter trial," but if you aren't there, he said, "you have to take the word of whoever was there or the media." With this trial, he said, "I wanted to be able to have an informed opinion."

Regarding the verdict, Hampton said, "it turned out the way that I had hoped," and he feels a sense of relief, "because it could very well have gone the other way." Kathy Luft, a family member of Crystal Henry, who also attended the trial daily, was satisfied with the verdict. "I think the verdict was appropriate, the bare minimum anyway. I feel very strongly that he deserved exactly what he got and more so."

Amy Knapton Vega, Executive Director of the Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery, which had observers in the court throughout the trial, feels the Mobley trial is raising some important questions that need to be addressed by the community. "I've been convicted, primarily because of this case," Vega said, "that there is a population that we are missing, and I felt that I needed to see this case through." Pausing, she added, "I wonder what would have happened if Crystal had known about the crisis nursery."

Joshua Mobley's sentencing is scheduled for August 9.



Josh Mobley Found Guilty of 2nd Degree Murder

Asiza Sandoval

Continued from Page 9

I have a territory of about 34 agents. It's mostly Spokane, but I have agents in Walla Walla, Lewiston Idaho and I go out as far as Grangeville Idaho. No two offices are the same, each one has their own personality and flavor. They give me company cars and three days a week I'm in the field visiting offices, touching in on the things that are important to them, and then I have a couple of administration days a week where I work from home. So, it's a nice setup, a nice gig.

We talked about insurance and Black families, what do you see as the significance of insurance, particularly life insurance for families?

I'll tell you this, I'm very passionate about life insurance and I'll say that probably like any other community ours is a mixed bag as well. I mean my grandparents were huge proponents of life insurance, I don't know if it's because they too were State Farm customers, but I think it has to do with impact and legacy, if I could choose those two words.

It's a devastating thing to lose. someone that you love and I can't imagine what it would be like to have to set up a Go Fund Me and depend on the kindness of others. There are kind people out there, but that's not the time you want to be dependent on the kindness of others, not when there is another way.

Secondarily, insurance is a tool that I don't think a lot of people realize you can use to pass on generational wealth, which is something that we do not pass on in the same way that other communities do.

Life insurance is money that you pass on to your beneficiaries, tax

free. Even the Bill Gates of the world and the Steve Jobs of the world, billionaires, they have tons of money tied up in life insurance because of the tax benefits of it. That's money that those beneficiaries do not have to worry about Uncle Sam touching.

And for me, being a professional person with a lot of life insurance, I don't have children but I want to leave a legacy for my nieces and nephews. I want to make sure that no ifs ands or buts, they can get to college if they want, because there were roadblocks that hindered me.

I think that there aren't many things that are certain in life, but the fact that we are going to move on from this place at some point is one of the definites. So, I think that to be more future minded is something that life insurance allows us to do in a way that there aren't too many other alternatives. I just don't think we do that enough in our community. And I'd love to see it.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

I think I will probably be doing what I'm doing now. I've been very fortunate that the roles that I've played in this particular company have evolved. The job that I'm doing now isn't the same role and the responsibilities have changed drastically even from the last person who held it. So, I think that it will have enough challenge enough and opportunity for me to be happy in the next five years.

I think to go farther on the corporate side of things I probably will have to dive into the education piece of it a little bit more than I have. But. who's to say because experience goes a really long way in this company too.

The sky's really the limit.

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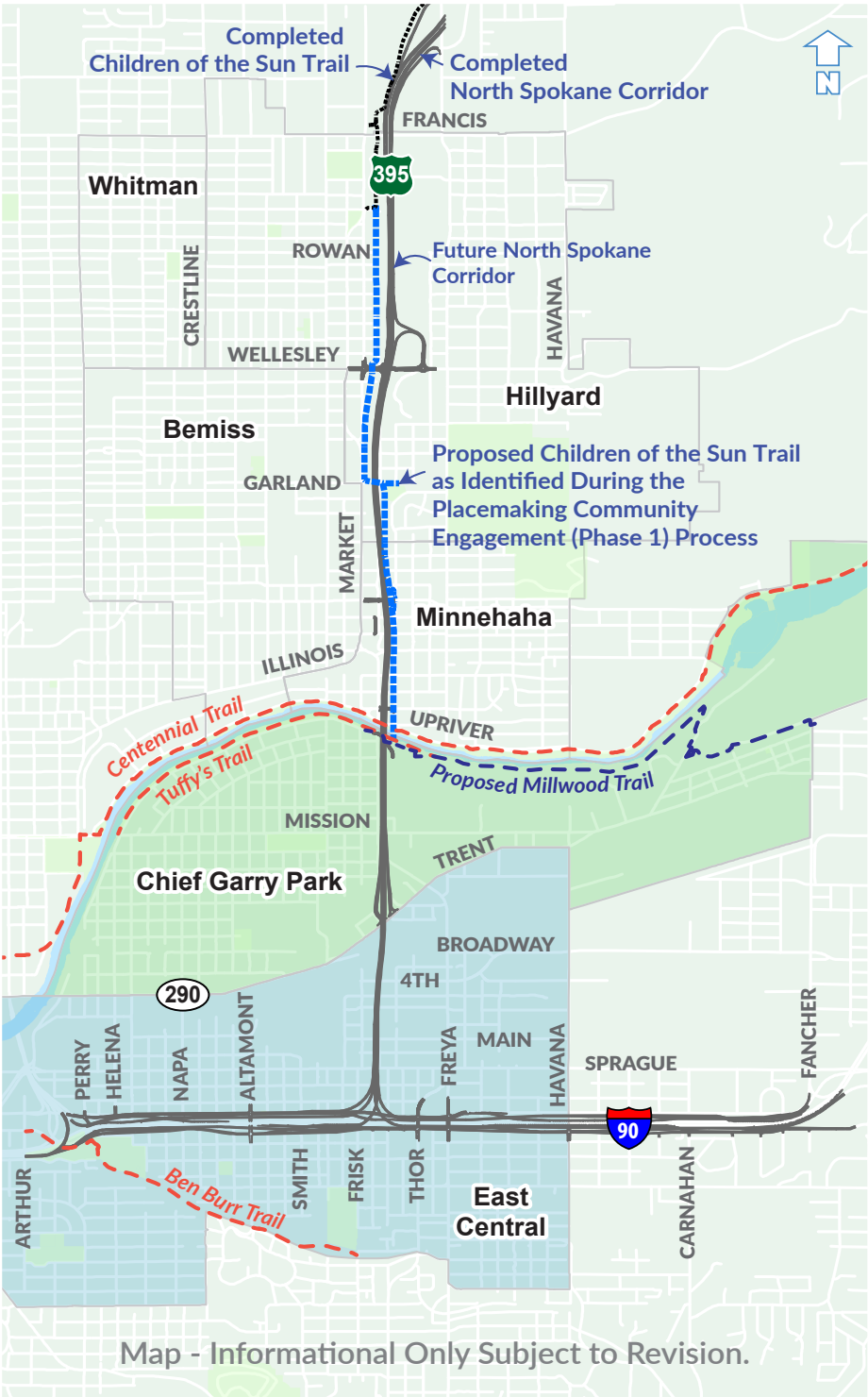
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COME PARTICIPATE

US 395 North Spokane Corridor and Children of the Sun Trail CHARRETTES

This is your opportunity to have a voice in identifying the Children of the Sun Trail route and potential placemaking opportunities in your neighborhood around the North Spokane Corridor.



Map - Informational Only Subject to Revision.

Child Friendly Play Area Provided

Translation Information

If you need this announcement translated and/or translation during the charrette contact WSDOT Office of Equal Opportunity at 360-705-7090.

Yog tias koj xav tau qhov kev ceeb toom no thiab/lossis kev txhais lus nyob rau ncua sij hawm rooj sib tham ua lus Hmoob, tiv tauj rau WSDOT Chaw Ua Haujlwm Vaj Huam Sib Luag ntawm 360-705-7090.

Elane kwoj konan bwe kejela in im/ak ukote ilo ien charrette an Marshallese, kirklok WSDOT Opiij eo an Opportunity ilo 360-705-7090.

Если вам необходимо это объявление и/или перевод во время семинара-обсуждения на русском языке обратитесь к Отдел по обеспечению равных возможностей WSDOT по тел. 360-705-7090.

Si necesita servicio de traducción durante el charrette o que este anuncio sea traducido al español, contáctese con Oficina de Igualdad de Oportunidades del WSDOT al 360-705-7090.

Якщо вам необхідно це оголошення та/або переклад під час семінару-обговорення українською Ukrainian мовою, зверніться до Відділ із забезпечення рівних можливостей WSDOT за тел. 360-705-7090.

Nếu bạn cần thông báo này và/hoặc thông dịch viên hỗ trợ trong buổi charrette bằng tiếng Việt, liên hệ WSDOT Văn phòng Cơ hội Bình đẳng theo số 360-705-7090.

What is a Charrette?
A charrette is an inclusive, interactive and collaborative workshop where community members can identify relevant issues and potential solutions for projects with community-wide significance.

Please plan to join us at the upcoming Children of the Sun Charrette.

CHILDREN OF THE SUN TRAIL

SATURDAY / July 13, 2019

10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Sheridan Elementary - Commons, 3737 East 5th Avenue, Spokane, WA

Why have Charrettes for Placemaking and the Trail?
At these workshops you will explore relationships between “Special Places” in your neighborhood and the North Spokane Corridor along with Children of the Sun Trail, from the Spokane River south to the I-90 vicinity, in the Chief Garry and East Central neighborhoods.

The charrette process provides opportunities for you to share ideas and solutions for potential placemaking: spaces, features, access, alignments and activities, that can preserve, enhance, and create public spaces that promote people’s quality of life and well-being, in and around the North Spokane Corridor and Trail.

Doors Open at 9:30 a.m.
Please Plan to Join Us

Title VI Notice to Public
It is the Washington State Department of Transportation’s (WSDOT) policy to assure that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin or sex, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise discriminated against under any of its federally funded programs and activities. Any person who believes his/her Title VI protection has been violated, may file a complaint with WSDOT’s Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO). For additional information regarding Title VI complaint procedures and/or information regarding our non-discrimination obligations, please contact OEO’s Title VI Coordinator at 360-705-7090.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information
This material can be made available in an alternate format by emailing the Office of Equal Opportunity at wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov or by calling toll free, 855-362-4ADA (4232). Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may make a request by calling the Washington State Relay at 711.

For More Information Contact

Bob Hilmes, P.E. WSDOT Eastern Region Project Engineer (509) 324-6089 hilmesb@wsdot.wa.gov	Charlene Kay, P.E. WSDOT Eastern Region Planning Director (509) 324-6195 kayc@wsdot.wa.gov	Kerry Brooks, Ph.D. Eastern Washington University kbrooks@ewu.edu
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EMPLOYMENT & BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

May I professionally help you to sell, buy, or lease a property?

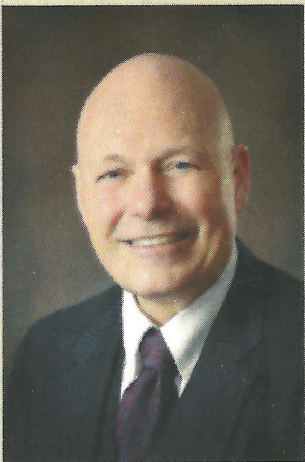
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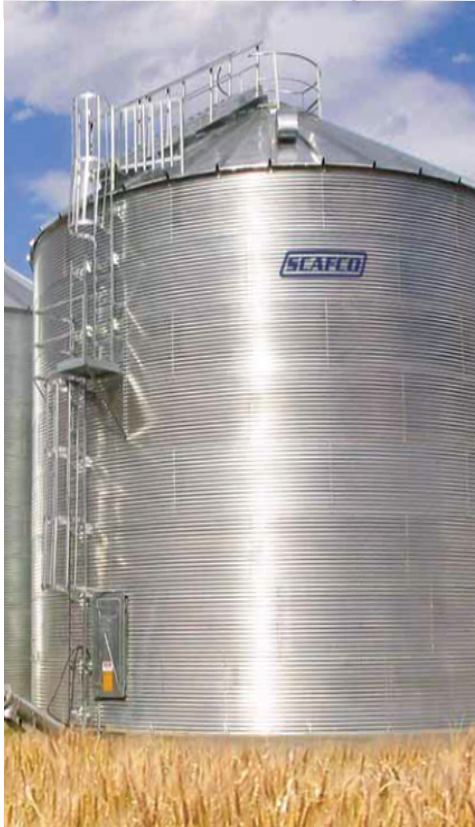
Career Opportunities SPOKANE

Long established manufacturing company is seeking energetic and hard-working individuals for management, sales, office, machine operators and laborer positions. To view all of our current openings, please visit our website www.SCAFCO.com and/or CWallA, our authorized distributor of SCAFCO products www.CWallA.com to fill out an application.

You can also send your resume to SCAFCO at 2800 E Main Ave Spokane, WA 99202.

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East Side Library | 524 S. Stone

Tuesday, July 16, 5:30-7:30pm

Spokane Community College Skilled Trades Programs

Come learn about opportunities for education and job training from the Adult Education Division of Spokane Community College. Pre-Apprenticeship for the building trades, GED and High School Completion, Computer Training, College Prep and more....

 SPOKANE PUBLIC LIBRARY

509-444-5300

JULY EVENTS

JULY 6
CULTURE OF KENYA AND MAASAI
Kenya is a country in East Africa and encompasses savannah, lakelands, and mountain highlands. It is also home to wildlife like lions, elephants and rhinos. The Maasai of Kenya are known for their distinctive customs and dress, and their fearsome reputation as warriors. Come learn about the culture of both!
11am - Noon
Shadle Library
2111 W Wellesley Ave, Spokane, 99205
For more information visit spokanelibrary.org.

JULY 9
FUSE SPOKANE - DIVERSE VOICES BOOK DISCUSSION
July Book - Lift Us Up, Don't Push Us Out! Voices from The Front Lines of the Educational Justice Movement
Edited by Mark R. Warren, a collection of essays by various writers, this anthology tells the stories of how black and brown parents, students, educators, and their allies are fighting back against systemic inequities and the mistreatment of children of color in low-income communities.
6:30pm - 8:00pm
Downtown Public Library - First Floor, Rm 1B
906 W Main Ave, Spokane, WA 99201
Everyone welcome! Please read book before attending for the best experience. Questions email Erin at EJToungate@gmail.com

JULY 11
JUSTICE NIGHT
Speak with an attorney. Free Consultations in these areas: LFOs (Legal Financial Obligations), Housing, Juvenile Law, Family Law, Seal/Expunge/Vacate Convictions, Police Accountability. NO CRIMINAL LAW.
5:30 pm
Center for Justice
35 W Main, Spokane 99201
Cost: Free. *Sponsored by Center for Justice.*
For more information call 509.835.5211 or visit their website at www.cforjustice.org.

JULY 12
LIGHTS FOR LIBERTY SPOKANE: END DETENTION CAMPS
Join us to protest the horrific conditions that immigrants and refugees are facing and to call for an end to detention camps.
8pm - Protest
9pm - Candlelight Vigil and March
Spokane Riverfront Park - Clocktower
507 N Howard St, Spokane, 99201
For more information contact Fernanda @ 509-655-1753. www.lightsforliberty.org.

JULY 15
NAACP MEETING
Join the NAACP for our monthly general membership meeting.
7pm
Check the NAACP website or Facebook to confirm meeting location and date.
For more information contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425 or visit: naacpspokane.org.

JULY 16
SKILLED TRADE PREP
Learn about opportunities for education, job training and pre-apprenticeship for the building trades.
5:30-7:30pm
East Side Library
524 S. Stone, Spokane 99202
For information call 509-444-5300.

JULY 19
BLACK LENS MOVIE SCREENING - TONI MORRISON: THE PIECES I AM
This artful and intimate meditation on the legendary story-teller examines her life, her works and the powerful themes she has confronted throughout her literary career.
6pm - 8:30pm
Magic Lantern Theater
25 W Main Avenue, Spokane, WA 99201
Cost: \$10
Advance Tickets are available online **now** at <http://blacklensnews.com>.

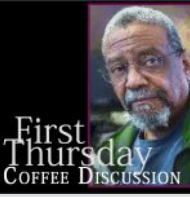
JULY 21
13TH: FROM SLAVE TO CRIMINAL WITH ONE AMENDMENT
Move screening and panel discussion. Panel includes: Carmen Pacheco-Jones, Racial Equity Committee, Chair-Smart Justice Executive Committee; Duaa Rahemaah Williams, Community Member; Latrice Williams, Racial Equity Committee/Steering Committee Peer Navigator Training Program; Curtis Hampton, Spokane Community Against Racism/Racial Equity Committee; Kurtis Robinson, Spokane NAACP President, AOWSAC Criminal Justice Chair; Kiantha Duncan, Empire Health Foundation/NAACP Executive Committee
5:45-8:45pm
Magic Lantern Theatre
25 W Main Ave, Spokane, 99201
Hosted by Meaningful Movies Spokane with UUCS

JULY 21
KFCA FELLOWSHIP MONTHLY SERVICE
Pastors Rodney and Leslie McCauley are the speakers for this evening's service. Kingdom Fellowship Church Alliance (KFCA) is an alliance of Pastors, Churches and Christian leaders.
6pm
Genesis Church
9315 N. Nevada, Spokane 99218
For more information call (509) 868-0070 or visit kfcaministries.com.

JULY 27
A NIGHT OF COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS
Reparations: Should America Make Amends for Slavery?
Presented by Wilburn and Associates. Join the national conversation.
4 - 6:30pm
Carl Maxey Center
3116 E. 5th Avenue, Spokane 99202
Free and open to the public. For more information and to register for the event visit: <https://www.wilburnassociates.org>.

JULY 31
CULTURAL EXCHANGE POTLUCK
Round up the family, bring a dish, join us for some networking, fun & games, and play the food roulette for a global tasting challenge.
3:30 - 7:30pm
Franklin Park Picnic Shelter
302 W Queen Avenue, Spokane 99205
Sponsored by The Family Guide. RSVP by contacting Charity@thefamilyguide.org. For more information visit: thefamilyguide.org.

FIRST THURSDAY
EVENING DISCUSSION GROUP



First Thursday
COFFEE DISCUSSION

Those interested in racial and social justice. Those interested in community development.

Looking for 5-10 people willing to meet regularly for deep discussions, to plan strategies and take action.

First meeting: Thursday, July 11
6 – 8 pm
Carl Maxey Center
3116 E 5th Avenue, Spokane 99202

Contact Bob Lloyd at (509) 999-1263 or rdlloyd@comcast.net.

For more information visit 4comculture.com.

SAVE THE DATE
AUGUST 2-3
MIRACLE HEALING BREAKTHROUGH CONFERENCE
Spokane Convention Center
Centennial Ballroom
334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane
Free Online Registration. Limited Seating.
(See page 24 for more information)

Send information about upcoming community events to sandy@blacklensnews.com.

Career, Education and Health Fair

Cultural Village

Activities for All Ages

Join us for the 25th Annual

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Free Kids Helmets (while supplies last)

Senior Resource Area

Saturday, August 17th · 10am to 4pm · Riverfront Park, Downtown Spokane



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Dr.
BERYLE PORTE

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Breakthrough

CONFERENCE

AUGUST 2019

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